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JULIET GRENVILLE:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

OF THE

H U M A N H E A R T.

THREE VOLUMES IN TWO.

BY MR. B R O O K E.

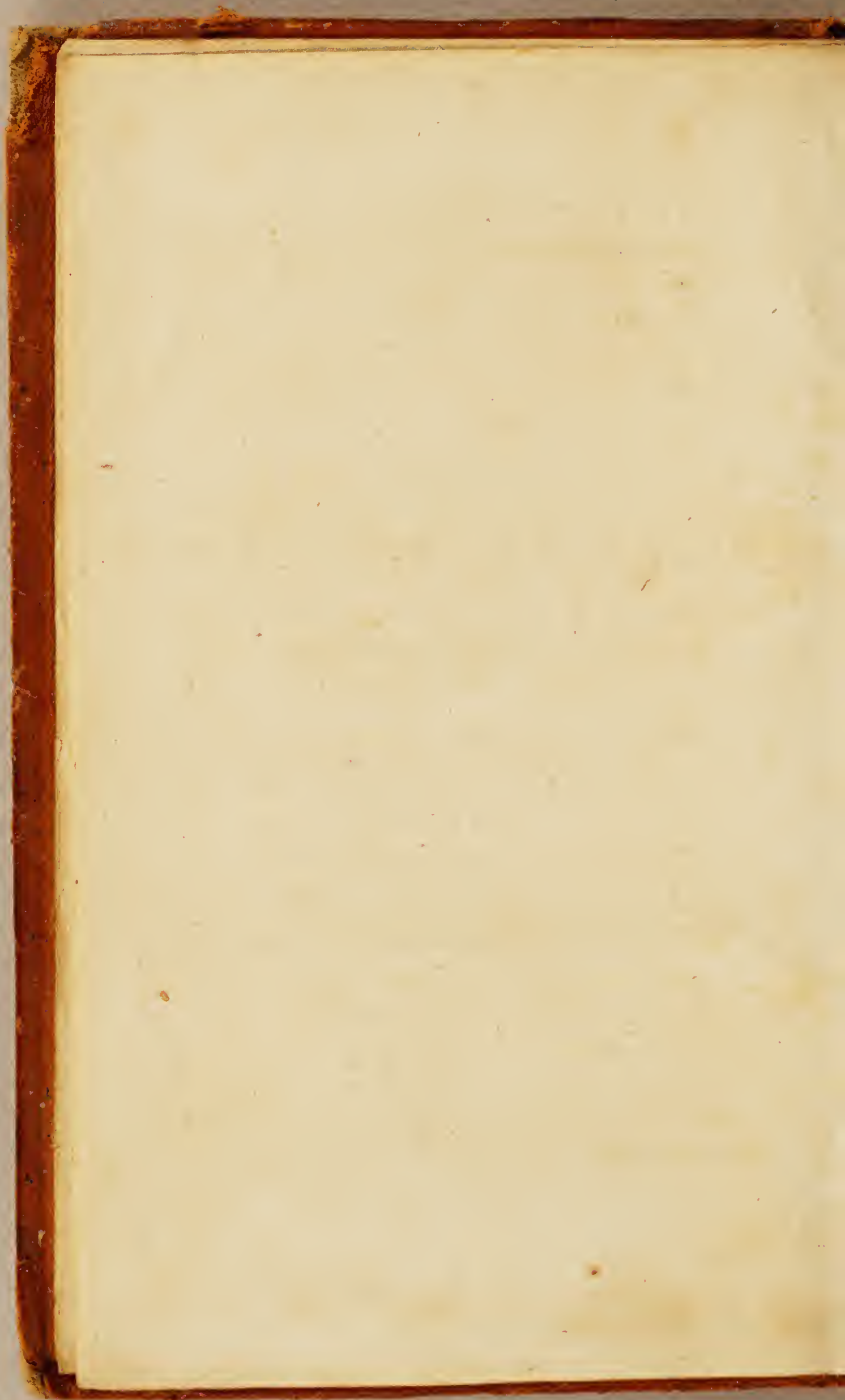
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M D C C L X X I V.



JULIET GRENVILLE.

WHILE the COUNTESS OF CRANFIELD attended her assembly of visitants to the stair-head, she privately beckoned miss GRENVILLE to stay. She then intimated to her servants that she was not at home, and withdrew with her young guest to a retired apartment.

What is the matter with my sweet girl, said my lady? you are deeply affected, child: the cheerfulness that you put on is the only awkward thing that I ever knew about you. Ah, those eyes of yours, JULIET! they are too clear, and too honest, not to let us into every emotion of your heart. Confide in me, my dear; I have all the tenderness of a mother for you, with all the indulgence of a friend. You may safely repose your griefs, and even your failings, upon me. The best of us is not exempt from frailty, my girl. Our task of virtue is to avoid not to rise above temptation.

Those

Those temptations are as traitors within a citadel, and each of them is worse than ten assailants without. The heart of woman is of intelligence with her enemies from abroad. An unwary moment may happen to the most guarded and reserved; and this reflection ought to fill us with charity for others.

Your goodness, madam, said miss GRENVILLE, demands my utmost confidence. Indeed my heart is by nature sensible, and subject to many weaknesses; but has not yet to reproach me with irrecoverable error.

And why should error be irrecoverable? rejoined the COUNTESS. I allow that a woman, by one known lapse, must be lost for a long time to reputation; but opinion cannot bar her return to virtue; and I have known where a single fall has served for ensuring better firmness through life. The general misfortune of the sisterhood is, that they look on reputation as virtue itself; and think, when that is lost, they have nothing farther to care for.

Women, my darling, are in the nature of towns. To speak in the general, they neither
have

have forces within, nor fences without. But happily, on the other hand, they have little worth attempting. Yet they pride themselves in having escaped pillage, and ascribe it to their being guarded against surprise.

You, my JULIET, are as the city of Troy: your host of virtues within are sufficient for a ten years siege against the world; and you are walled about seven fold by the fences of christianity. Yet, Troy was taken; and Sinon prevailed by stratagem, where Achilles had assaulted in vain.

But come, my love, if you think me worthy of your confidence, lay all your cares upon me.

That very purpose brought me here, my dearest madam. And yet my griefs are founded on such fantastical weakneses, that I know not how to begin, and was about to retire without a word of the matter. In short my life is so very unimportant and uninteresting, and I have so little of incident or adventure to disclose respecting myself, that I fear to fatigue you with a barren narration. It contains little save the

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history

history of my own heart ; of sentiments that request you to confirm them where they are right, and to reclaim them where they deviate into folly or transgression.

The history of the heart, replied lady CRANFIELD, is the only history that deserves man's study or attention. All else is a dead letter, a foreign inventory, a mere catalogue of unconcerning events. Begin then, my lovely JULIET ; and be assured that your own heart is less indulgent to your weaknesses, and not more fond of your welfare, than is that of your friend.

Miss GRENVILLE, in a transport of tender endearment, clasped her patroness to the fairest bosom that was ever expanded ; and thus ventured on a detail, that she conceived of no significance to any second person on earth.

To give you, madam, the true history of a foolish and feeling heart, I must begin from my earliest years. I was born to be unhappy ; I was born to love, and never to fix upon an object answerable to my faith or my affections.

I was scarce three years old, when I was daily
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sent under the care of an attendant, to a private academy at the house of Sir John Elliot, where that gentleman had provided a choice collection of tutors and tutoresses for the education of his children.

The first object that occurs to memory is the person of lord Thomas your little son. Though he was two or three years older than I, he took an unaccountable liking to me: he had a wonderful pleasure in assisting my mistress to teach me my letters: he never quitted me but with regret. Our whole happiness seemed to consist in our being together; and in our hours of play or leisure, our amusements received a double delight, from our talking to, and looking at, and touching, and fondly caressing each other.

Have you ever loved, madam?—I see that you have. Are you not of my opinion, that true love can have no regard to sexes?—I loved even to passion, before I knew what sex was, or that I differed in that respect from the object beloved.—Surely, surely, madam, a true and virtuous love neither seeks nor looks to any sensual gratification. It is some secret power

power of cordial attraction, or intellectual magnetism, that draws the soul, from its own place, to the search and the enjoyment of some other self, infinitely dearer and more delightful than all that we find at home, either within us, or about us.

There is something in what you say, answered the COUNTESS, that has not yet been accounted for. I cannot, however, altogether coincide with your system of platonics. Mankind have their instincts, as well as the irrationals. It is sufficient for nature, that we are of different sexes : she requires not our knowledge or reflection on the business ; but goes forth, agreeable to her own propensities, in search of that end which she proposes by the union.

Ah, madam ! exclaimed miss GRENVILLE, rob me not of the flattering idea, which I have long entertained, of the purity of that passion to which I have been so prone. If love is an instinct, as you allege, why may it not as well be intellectual as sensual ? why may it not be that principle on which God first founded society, when he saw that it was not good for man
to

to be alone?——Is there not a principle that constitutes the cohesion of matter, and may not love also be a principle for the cohesion of minds? However that may be, however it may affect or operate in others, in me it is surely a principle predominant over even that of self-preservation. If I say that I love you, madam, barely equal with myself, I am far from doing justice to the warmth of my attachment. Love is certainly the same propensity that constitutes what we call, by three different appellations, love, friendship, and devotion. It is that divestiture of our own existence which saints feel, when they cast themselves on their creator, and desire to be wholly swallowed up of their God.

Kiss me, my sweet philosopher, said the smiling COUNTESS. Be not yet deceived, my dear. Though love, friendship, and devotion, go from home in search of happiness, the sensations, like the objects, are widely different.

I admit that the affections of friendship and devotion may, in some few instances, have arisen to passion. Yet, they are as different from love, with respect to their desires, as they are from each other with respect to their objects.

We

We can very well suppose, without any uneasiness, that our God, or our friend, may communicate their affections. Nay we even solicit their favour to others, by our prayers and petitions for that benevolent purpose. But, can this be said of lovers? No, no, my JULIET; in this case alone, the more delicate we are in our sentiments, the less we can bear any thoughts of participation. Love, as Milton finely observes, was the sole propriety in a paradise, where all things else were common and freely communicable.

But come, my precious child, proceed in your history. How delighted shall I be in tracing, through the fields of native innocence, the mazes and doublings of the human heart divine!

I have told you, madam, continued miss GRENVILLE, of the extraordinary sympathy by which your son and I became attached to each other, even in those our very early years. I know not what the motive of this attachment might be; but I well recollect, that I felt no joy like that of giving him joy, and that the sense of his delighting in me was my supreme felicity.

Sir

Sir John and his lady became so excessively fond of me, they scarce suffered my parents to have me, for a day, to themselves. And thus, month after month, and year after year, passed and glided away, in a paradisiacal delirium of infantine delicioufness.

One day, while my young lover was deeply engaged in entertaining me, he forgot that his lesson was any part of his business; when, in comes his Latin master, with the terrific ensign of authority waving in his hand. He cast a look on his pupil that sufficiently indicated the severity of his intention; but, I instantly rushed between, flew at him like a little tygres, snatched the rod from his hand, tore it in a hundred pieces; and then fell into such a fit of tears, and sobbing, as shamed the astonished preceptor into a peaceful retreat.

Then it was that my lover approached, his face all in a glow, his eyes and every motion expressive of the most tender and grateful passion. He came round and round, sweetly cooing and consoling me. Don't cry my dearest miss JULIET, he said; I cannot bear your tears, they are more terrible to me than all the rods in the world.

world. I scorn the pain of a whipping ; and I would bargain for one at every three hours end, so I might have your company in the mean time.

Ay, but master Tommy, said I, I must not be the cause that you should neglect your book. You was told, you know, that no one would respect or love you, without your learning ; and I wish, master Tommy, that every one would love you, as much as I wish they would love myself.

This gentle rebuke, from lips so beloved, proved more effectual for doubling the diligence of your son, than a whole forest of birch, or the admonitions of all the sages of Greece would have done. It was afterwards his custom to bring his tutors, severally, to me, to vouch for him how well he had performed his task, that he might pay himself, for his pains, by my approbation.

In a few weeks after, while I sat working at my sampler, and he reading a little story book for my amusement beside me ; I seized the opportunity now and then, of gazing at him unobserved with inexpressible pleasure. But, while my attention was divided between my
work

work and my lover, I run the needle a great way into my finger. I screamed out with the sudden pain, and he instantly started up and turned pale as his shirt.

Heav'ns ! what is the matter, he cried, what ails my JULIET ? when, seeing the blood flow apace from the wound, he dashed his book on the ground in a fit of resentment ; he caught my finger in a tender transport, took out a cambric handkerchief and continued to soak up the blood as it came : he wetted my hand with his tears, and pressed it repeatedly to his lips, and again to his bosom. Never, sure, was finger so fostered, so bemoaned ! I would voluntarily have run my needle into every finger twice as far, to have each of them so cherished.

I saw that the sufferings of my little lover exceeded mine twenty fold, and I felt extreme delight in that consideration ; not, surely, that I received any pleasure from his pain, but from the proof that he thereby gave me of his affections.

As I grew confident of my little lord's attachment to me, I grew vain in proportion, and assumed I know not what airs of childish im-
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portance.

portance. When I thought him safe on the hook beyond escape, notwithstanding the excess of my tenderness for him, I took a roguish delight in sporting with his captivity. At intervals I used to exercise and discipline the strength of his affection, by a thousand little pouting and playful coquetries, in which I know not whether there was most of nature or affectation. Ah! many an aching heart I gave myself on those occasions; for that was ever the consequence of putting him to pain.

Can you tell me, dear madam, are women generally born with quicker and more apprehensive talents than men? I know it was my case. Mine was an extempore genius preceding study or reflection; and, before I was nine years old, I could have made a fool of any man of nine and fifty, provided he was in good faith a lover.

Ah, JULIET, cried lady CRANFIELD, though your remark should be just, we may happen to gain nothing on that head. In animals, as in vegetables, the most delicate and flowery frames come soonest to maturity, and soonest also to decay.

So it proved indeed, madam, with all my little joyous arts and knavish coquetries ; they quickly attained their perfection, and soon after their period.

Shall I not provoke your ladyship, by confessing how wickedly I used to teize your noble child ? Many a chase have I led him through a thousand little wildnesses and doublings of my temper, though I always took care to go no farther than he followed, still turning and marking whether he kept me in sight.

It was my custom to feign petty fullens and quarrels, while my heart was in the highest glee, and never more delighted with him. His uneasiness, on these occasions, never failed to give me a painful sensation ; but the conviction that it also gave me of my own power over him, was an ample recompence for what I suffered on his account.

At times, when I carried my politics a little too far, and observed that he was offended and waxed gloomy, in his turn ; it then became my part to coax and conciliate ; to assure him I was quite friends ; that I had been only in joke ; and to call him a little fool, and other fondling names

names. But, if I found that all this was not sufficient to appease, I quickly dropt the tear of unfeigned affliction : this was what he could not stand, and we instantly became better friends than ever.

One evening in September, when our tasks were over, we small ones of the academy, among other amusements, fell on questions and commands.

In our company was master Harry Elliot, somewhat older than lord Thomas, and miss Polly his younger sister, two very amiable children.

The king being appointed, miss Polly, in rotation, went to know his commands : Go, said his majesty, and kiss the finest gentleman in all this company.

Alas for poor Polly, she did not wait a second bidding, her election had been made. By an involuntary emotion she flew over to my lovely Tommy, caught him about the neck, and gave him two or three kisses with a very good will ; when instantly recollecting herself, she appeared much confused, and blushed like scarlet.

My

My lover seemed no way displeased at this adventure. The manner of such a preference was very flattering to his vanity ; and he cast a glance at me, as much as to say, you see, miss, you do not happen to be quite singular in your liking. His deportment instantly assumed that complacency, which is due to those who give such undeniable proofs of their regard. He rose, and gracefully bowing, led miss Polly to her seat ; when, having saluted her cheek, he returned to his station.

Though all this passed in little more than a minute, in less than that minute I penetrated, discussed, and comprehended the respective emotions of the parties, with their causes, and the consequences that were likely to ensue ; and all this I did, while I smiled and threw my head aside, as one wholly disinterested and regardless of the matter.

Though I could find nothing worthy of blame in this behaviour of my lover, though it was altogether such as a passion less fervent than mine must have approved ; yet I felt myself angry at heart ; and this I deemed a sufficient

reason for secretly denouncing vengeance against him.

When master Harry Elliot went, in his turn, and requested to know his majesty's injunctions, I command you, said our monarch, to go and pay your compliments to the finest lady in company: Rather say, cried master Harry, to the finest lady in the world. Then turning and drawing toward me with a timid and respectful air, he bent on one knee, and ventured to kiss the hand of the little divinity.

Can there be an altar, madam, from which incense like this would not be grateful? I felt the injustice of refusing some little matter of exaltation to such humility. I instantly rose, curtsied, and offered him my cheek; which, however he scarce touched, but bowing steep backward and sat down as before.

I now felt myself in part revenged upon my lover, and I cast at him a side glance of satiate malice. But his eyes met mine with a furious regard, and suddenly turning from me, he remained gloomy and discomposed.

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In an instant my heart brought me to trial and acquittal; it found itself no way interested in the offence that had been given; and it resented this treatment as equally injurious to its love and to its honour.

I, however, attempted at some expostulating looks; but my lover would no more turn to the side where I sat. O, you have broke your fetters, sir, it seems, said I to myself; but you will come back, if you please, before I call, I assure you.

I found myself at once most tenderly affected, and most cruelly disobliged. I endeavoured to assume an air of freedom and vivacity; but the vexation to feel that it would not pass, disconcerted and had like to have thrown me quite off my guard.

In a little while after, our time of retiring being at hand, I felt myself half eased of an insufferable incumbrance. I rose the first, and saluted the company with the most gracious air I could put on; then turning to my lover with

a sort of constrained laugh, my lord, said I, I wish your lordship an agreeable evening; O, madam, cried he, bowing low but not deigning to look toward me, I am your most obedient! Your's, your's, sir, said I; and away I slid.

As soon as I had got off I flew to my apartment, but was cruelly chagrined to find my maid there before me. I constrained myself the best I could; but she observed that I was full, and very affectionately enquired what cause I had to complain. Little art was wanting here to feign an indisposition: I ascribed the distemper of my heart to my head, and got supperless into bed with all possible despatch.

O, my lady, how lively and poignant are the sensations of a young creature, who has set up to herself a single object of happiness! love, jealousy, resentment, and the pride of conscious worth so unjustly rejected, made sad work within.

I burst into a flood of tears. My lover rose to my imagination in a thousand different shapes ; now engaged by his new flame, and full of his assiduities about miss Elliot ; again returning to myself, full of penitence and remorse, and praying at my feet for pardon and reconciliation. Now I felt myself melted by the instances of his tenderness, again I steeled my heart by the remembrance of his apostacy ; and I determined, at all events, to die a thousand deaths rather than add to his arrogance by the smallest advance.

For two whole days I kept my chamber, partly through indisposition, but principally to avoid a rencounter with my lover, and to give him time to ruminate on the vast loss he had sustained. The third day, going on a visit to some of the misses, I met him full at a turn. We both stopped and coloured.—Miss—miss JULIET—said he hesitatingly—I—I beg to speak a few words with you.

Then it was that my little heart exerted its utmost effort, and prided, though to its cost, in the resolution of its owner. My lord, said I,
with

with an affected ease, I hope another time may do ; for the present you must excuse me ; I am really engaged. I spoke, and tore myself away ; and never was conquest or triumph more applauded by the consciousness of prowess.

The whole following night I lay restless and irresolute. I had painfully sacrificed all that was due to pride. Nothing farther remained to keep alive the resentful vivacity of my heart, and I sunk into a sickly and unsatisfied languor.

Next morning I arose much weakened and indisposed. I was scarce dressed when lord Tommy sent in his name. Immediately I ordered him to be admitted, and beckoned my maid to leave the room.

He entered wan and dejected, and fallen away as if he had just arisen from a bed of sickness.—I am come—miss JULIET—I am come, said he faintly, to take my leave of you.—Your leave of me, sir?—Yes, indeed—I cannot bear to live any longer in a house where I displease you ; and I am writing to my parents to
take

take me home, or send me to some other school.—Here I gave him a look of tender expostulation, that expressed a speech of nine pages at least.—I perceived that his eyes were full, and that the muscles of his sweet countenance began to work.—I could hold it no longer: I turned from him, and broke out into a violent fit of weeping.

He attempted to speak to me; but his voice was also suppressed by sobs, and he was obliged to give vent to the passion that oppressed him.

Thus we continued for near a quarter of an hour, both of us silent, drowned in tears, and averted from each other.

At length my lover turned toward me, and laying hold on my frock, with a diffident and broken accent, May I flatter myself, dearest miss, said he, that I have any concern in those precious tears? Yes, yes, I answered; surely, you may; they are all your own, indeed.—O, pardon then, he cried out, suddenly casting himself on his knees, can you pardon a wretch who will die,
rather

rather than ever offend you again?—Hereupon I turned to him, and tenderly pressing his little head to my bosom, I do, I do pardon you, master Tommy, said I; and pray be so good as to pardon me also.

I then gently raised, and seated him, and took a chair beside him. We leaned fondly over, silently regarding one another with a delicious kind of melancholy, while each wiped the tears from the face of the other.

Master Tommy, said I at length, do not let us quarrel any more; indeed I shall not live long, if you are angry with me. O, my dearest, he replied, catching my hand to his bosom, never, never will I vex you again. Say what you please, do what you please, it is enough that I know you love me; I never can have cause for complaint any more.

Have you seen the sea, madam, after a long and violent storm, when the winds suddenly cease, and the sun shines forth, and all is quiet and smiling around? The waves, though

though inclined to peace, still murmur and move inward, and cannot immediately recover from the turbulence of their emotion. Such was the state that succeeded to this day's reconciliation, till a quiet and sound sleep restored me to my accustomed health and cheerfulness.

O, the days of delight, times never to return! six whole years of such a happiness! it was too much for a state from the beginning ordained to misery on earth! My destiny, glutton-like, devoured all its sweets at first; it designedly anticipated every enjoyment, to embitter the future by the cruel comparison.

As my lover had promised, this was the last quarrel of any importance that we had. Our days passed on, in receiving and reflecting, and thereby doubling every pleasure that we delighted to give each other. He even became enamoured of my little freaks and petulances; and though the vivacity of my temper gave me a thousand different shapes, his passion yet found a mistress in every shape, and was enchanted by all.

I was now turned of eight, and lord Thomas of eleven, when he gave the first alarm to native modesty, and opened my eyes to a new world of delicacies and decorums, that are requisite in the commerce between the sexes.

I had that day put on a new suit, with a fine wrought tucker; when my lover, passing from some other chat to his admiration of the work, suddenly put his hand into my bosom.

As I had not yet been admonished that there was any thing very particularly indecent in this action, had I been of the sect of philosophers who ascribe virtue and the economy of the human conduct to reason, I should have left his hand there, till I had duly argued and decided on the propriety or impropriety of this behaviour; but I had a much wiser and readier monitor within.

I instantly sprung back, fury flashing from my eyes; and regarding him with a look that struck him pale and speechless, Go, said I, unworthy boy! and let me see you no more, till you learn the respect that is due to the lady deserving

serving of your love.—He retired, bowing, as in assent to his own condemnation, without daring to look upward to the face of his judge, or to plead any thing in mitigation of the sentence pronounced against him.

Though I saw my lover no more for that day, I cannot yet say that I was very uneasy. The little conscious elevation of having done right, perhaps a sense of some authority that I had gained over him by this adventure, and the knowledge that I could recal him at pleasure by reaching forth a pardon, served wonderfully to sweeten the hours of absence.

The next morning, as soon as I had dressed and opened the door of my chamber, the first object that presented itself was my suppliant at an awful distance. At the sight of me he dropt on his knees, Pardon, JULIET, he cried, O pardon, heavenly creature, not the fault but the offender who has repented thereof! I swear by all that is precious, by thyself I swear, miss JULIET, that I know not how it came to pass, nor by what sudden motion I dared to transgress; and here I vow, for the future, to treat you with
more

more respect than the Ephesians used to pay to their goddess Diana.

Well well, said I, half laughing, I find I must be friends with you for this time: though I fancy you are a great rogue, master Tommy; and I shall trust more, hereafter, to my own fears, than to your vows and promises, my friend, I assure you.

So saying, I stretched forth my hand, by way of olive branch, which he eagerly seized and half devoured with his kisses.

Thenceforth, though we lived together with our usual fondness, yet my lord was very far from being a gainer by the late alarm: he lost thousands of those little endearments and caresses, with which I was accustomed to indulge him and myself, before he inadvertently put me on my guard.

I ought to have told your ladyship, that before our capital quarrel at questions and commands, your son had contracted a friendship with master Harry Elliot. Master Harry had
observed

observed his discomposure and ill temper during our play? but did not chuse to take notice of it to him before company. Next morning, however, he went early to his chamber, where my lover had just risen after a very unhappy night.

What is the matter, my friend, said master Harry? you do not look in good health or good humour this morning. Have you got ever a sword, sir, said my lord? A sword, my dear! not I; what should I do with a sword? You must provide yourself then, said my lord; you see mine is ready: you have taken away my mistress, and if you expect to keep her you must take my life. I take your mistress, my dear friend? Yes, sir; she offered you a kiss yesterday before company, and that is more than she ever offered me behind backs.

My lord, said master Elliot, I own I think miss JULIET the sweetest miss in the universe; but, since your heart is set upon her so deadly, I will have no more to say to her. No, sir, said lord Tommy, I scorn to take advantage of any one's generosity: let him have her, who is will-

ing to suffer most for her; unkind and false as she is, I would run this sword through my heart to do her any good; and I will now run it through my arm, to try if you love her well enough to follow my example. Hereupon he drew his little sword so suddenly, that he wounded himself before his friend could prevent him. But, on master Elliot's solemn renunciation of my goddessship, with farther promise of all the good offices in his power, this affair that threatened such tragical consequences was peacefully compromised.—This master Elliot told me, long after the departure of our precious little friend.

But, JULIET, said the COUNTESS, you tell me nothing of yourself. I remember that, when you were about five years of age, I went, with lord Cranfield and Mr. Goodman, on a visit to you and our Tommy, and I took the liberty of introducing them into your bedchamber.

You happened to be occupied, at the time, in a very particular manner. You had stripped one of your dolls, in order to put a clean shift upon it.

The

The moment that we entered, you started, as greatly alarmed; and your face, neck, and bosom, were instantly covered with scarlet, in your dread that the men should see the nakedness of your baby. So, without waiting to salute us, you huddled with it into a corner, where lay a parcel of clothes, and there you hastened to cover it up with all possible decency.

I had observed the whole of the action with heart-felt delight. I believe I nearly stifled you with my kisses and caresses; and I have often since told the story, much to the edifying of my own sex, I assure you.

I have farther heard some extraordinary circumstances relating to your infancy; that you used to give your silk slips and laced linen to the beggar children; and that you took a motherly care of a certain little girl before you yourself were seven years of age.

Bagatelles, madam! though there is something novel and whimsical enough in the last incident.

My

My father had made me a present of a large and elegant babyhouse, ready furnished with several dolls, and their respective equipages.

One evening, my maid being abroad, I was looking out at the parlour window, when a poor woman, with a little infant on her arm, came up and begged my charity. A fancy immediately struck me, and I asked her if she would let me have that baby to put into my babyhouse? She answered that she would sell it to me for a crown. I told her I did not know what a crown was, but that I would give her all the money I had in my pocket. The bargain was instantly struck; and, the street door being on the jar, I paid her in silver and pence what amounted at least, to double her demand. I then seized my purchase with unspeakable joy, and hurried with it up to my chamber.

There I disposed it in the most capacious part of my little house. I observed that it had fingers, and that it moved its eyes and lips. I felt an inconceivable delight in the possession, and preferred it to all the fine dolls in the universe.

When

When I had kissed and caressed it for some time it began to set up the pipes; I was transported anew to find that it had a voice, and I endeavoured to appease it in the best manner that I could; but, when I found that my attempts rather served to increase its clamour I left it with precipitation, and ran into lady Elliot's apartment. Madam, madam, said I in alarm, I do not know what to do; here is one of my dolls roaring, and I cannot quiet it for the life of me. One of your dolls, my dear! exclaimed my lady; why that cannot be. Indeed, indeed it is, madam; pray come and see!

My lady got up in a hurry to see this phenomenon, and was followed by Sir John and three or four of their visitants

When they came to my chamber, and perceived the little creature set up in my bayhouse, they first looked at each other with a solemn astonishment; but quickly imagining how matters were brought about, they jointly took a fit of laughter, whose repeated peals lasted for several minutes, and put me into I know not what

what of confusion and alarm. At last, said Sir John, Is this your child, miss JULIET? Yes sir, said I curtsying. But, are you the mother of it, my dear? Not I, indeed, sir; I never saw it in all my life till this good day. I fancy, continued sir John, that you must be the mother, by your fondness for it. La sir, said I, bursting into tears, and affronted to have my veracity called in question, how can I be its mother, when I never was married?

But, away with these pleasant fooleries!—In short, a nurse was provided; and in their indulgence to me, sir John and his lady had the child suckled in the house. The fairy looking thing is now grown toward woman, is a very amiable girl, and is my secretary and companion.

And now, madam, as Milton pathetically expresses it, on the fall of the first human pair from Paradise,——“ my notes henceforth must “ turn to tragic.”

My young lover, without notice to me, and without being himself apprised that we were to part for more than a day, was suddenly taken from me, nor have I ever seen him since.

Happy

Happy was it, if it is happy to prolong human life, that we were not permitted to take a parting adieu! One, or both of us, must have perished in the separation.

Alas, exclaimed the COUNTESS, and dropped a tear, a fatal separation it was indeed! You have lost your lover, JULIET, and I my child. His young heart could not survive the absence of his beloved. He is questionless dead these many years. Since his arrival at Dunkirk we never received a syllable concerning him, or his governor, or any of their attendants.

Ah madam, cried miss GRENVILLE, how was it possible that you consented to his departure? Your son, your only child, a son so accomplished, so irresistibly engaging, who looked love and delight into all beholders! He, whose aspect and manners might have soothed and tamed savages, could he not soften and conciliate the tempers of those who begot him? Since that heart-breaking period, I never can hear lord CRANFIELD named without shuddering.

Be not rash or resentful in your judgment, my JULIET; could you read the earl's soul, you would pity his sufferings, and accept his repentance. The best of us are people of like passions with the worst; and passion, during its regency, never called either reason or religion to its council. If we yield to its first impression, we know not how far it may impel us; it is quite impatient of restraint and impetuous in its motions, and delights to lay all waste both within us and about us.—But I will shew you in few words, from what a very small and insignificant spark this fire has been kindled between our families.

My lord and Mr. GRENVILLE were bred together at school and college. Their hearts, from their childhood, like the hearts of Jonathan and David, were knit together; their purses, their thoughts, lay open to each other; and each of them appeared more interested and more alive in his friend, than in himself.

Your mother and I also, almost from our cradles, were linked together in the silken bands of pleased and pleasing affection. The two
friends

friends wo'od and won us. We contrived to live as near as possible, and the house of either was more the property of the other than of its owner.

Almost in the same hour Mrs. GRENVILLE and I were delivered of two sons, and we gave them to be nursed, in one house by two filters. In some years after, we were also delivered of two daughters; but alas, you and my lost Tommy proved our only surviving children!

On the day of our double nuptials, your father, and my lord engaged to perpetuate their friendship, and the union of their families, by the intermarriage of their future sons and daughters; and it was with present delight, as well as flattering expectation, that we contemplated the daily growing graces of our JULIET, and also the growing affections of our Tommy: fond illusions, pleasing prospects, how unexpectedly, how suddenly, how bitterly defeated.

At the races of Epsom, thousands upon thousands convened and were grouped together from all parts.

The great plate lay between two renowned competitors, the one called Tamerlane and the other Bajazet; for no horse would adventure to enter against them. As they were leading to the post, my lord cried out in the crowd, nineteen guineas on Tamerlane!—Done, cried Mr. GRENVILLE! when turning and perceiving his friend, I ask you pardon my lord, he said; had I known it was you, I should not have closed the bet.

At a word, the two proud rivals shot away, attended by the shouts, fears, and panting impatience of the multitude. But the fate of their famed predecessors was here reversed; for Tamerlane lost the day by half a length, as they call it.

My lord then advanced through a crowd of nobles and gentry. Mr. GRENVILLE, said he, here are your nineteen pieces. I thought it had been ninety, said Mr. GRENVILLE carelessly, but very inadvertently. You thought, sir, you thought! cried my lord and kindled; then, sir, you shall have your thought; here are ninety—Excuse me, my lord, I cannot take them, I might
be

be mistaken.—You might be mistaken, sir! exclaimed my lord in a rage; had any man breathing, save yourself, dared to cast the most distant suspicion on my honour, his life should have been the forfeit upon the spot.—I would willingly lay down my life for your lordship answered your father; but it may not be easily taken without my consent.—My lord then reined his passion, to the best of his power; and taking out a handful of gold, and dashing it it on the ground, There, sir, is the money, said he; if you will not deign to stoop for it, let those who are less haughty be the more benefited.—They then turned from each other and quitted the field, while the money instantly vanished among the hands of the rabble.

This proves to you, my JULIET, how very cautious and considerate the dearest friends and dearest lovers ought to be, if they would have their union more durable than that of the gordian-knot, beyond the latent power of eating jealousies to loose, or steel to cut in sunder. These friends, at the time, regarded not the sum in question a sixpence; they would at the
very

very instant have staked down their fortunes, their lives, for each other: but the matter passed in public; and neither of them could brook, in the eye and ear of the world, what in private would not have affected them with the slightest displeasure.—Nine years are nearly elapsed since this affair happened, and neither of them has yet spoken to or even saluted the other. They questionless sigh in secret; they find a void in their souls, a want of that which once constituted their most essential felicity; they still love while they hate; they silently pant to be reconciled; but pride asks, who shall make the first advance?

The day after the races, Sir John Elliot and his lady came to dine at our house. They had not heard of the difference between the friends; and Sir John began to expatiate with pleasure, on the greatness of the passion which our Tommy had conceived for his little angel JULIET, as he affectionately styled you; observing that you would make the loveliest pair that ever, out of paradise, had been joined in nuptial bands. But my lord tartly replied, that he
would

would rather tie his son to the daughter of Barabbas. No no, he continued, I have taken effectual measures, in respect of that matter; and Tom, in a few days, must bid adieu to Great Britain.

Accordingly, a governor, and all other appointments being provided, my child was suddenly sent for, and compelled to depart, notwithstanding his prayers and tears, and my prayers and tears, and even our swooning at taking a last leave of each other. Such is the fury that animates exasperated friends! its bitterness exceeds every other species of enmity.

Their antipathy was such that they changed their situations and took houses, in the town, as far as possible from each other: needless precaution! alas, those in the same house, and even in the same bed, may be as alienated, and distanced, and as the remotest parts of the east and west asunder.

But, proceed my child, my JULIET; thou lovely relict of my Tommy! go on with thy sweet narrative; continue to beguile my cares, and affect a heart that doats upon thee! I obey.

you

you madam, said JULIET; the afflicting separation of your ladyship and your son, sufficiently reminds me of the place where I left off.

For a few following days, I kept up tolerably well. The soul cannot wholly sink, where a twig of hope is left to catch at, during its state of drowning privation.

Not seeing my Tommy appear, I grew more and more impatient; and no promises or puts off could farther avail for consolation. I saw nothing, I found nothing, but a gloomy waste and vacuity in myself and all around.

I walked about the house like a person just famishing; I seemed to devour every thing with the eagerness of my aspect, but could meet nothing to satisfy or abate my cravings.

My sleep forsook me; I turned away from victuals; and my time passed, as with those who feel themselves oppressed in a sickly and afflicting slumber.

I could

I could no longer contain. I shed torrents of tears : my little heart must else have burst. I went about loudly lamenting from room to room, crying, Where is he ? shall I never, O, shall I, shall I never see him again ?

My parents had notice. They were greatly alarmed. I was immediately carried home, and I took to my bed.

The delirium that seized me was surely that which saved my life. Illusive fancy, at intervals, gave cordials to the sick and desponding spirit. Methought, at times, that I saw, I touched and talked to my Tommy ; we renewed all our sports, we renewed our endearments, and our little hearts floated in the joys of elysium. Again a wind rushed between us, and took us off our legs, and hurried us through the air, far, far from each other. Again we met wonderfully, I knew not how nor when ; we shouted out, we leapt, and flew into one anothers arms ; the hour seemed too short for this single embrace ; the transport of meeting, after such a lamented absence, was too blissful, too overwhelming, and nature sunk away into a peaceful insensibility.

At

At the end of six and thirty days my distemper began to take a favourable turn. My eyes opened again to the discernment of objects. I turned my languid head, and perceived my dearest father kneeling at my bedside. Though my heart had appeared wholly engrossed by love, it was not yet dead to the filial sensations. I faintly stretched forth my hand to him ; he held it in silence, bathed it with his tears, and put it into his bosom. I also wept, but my tears gave me no uneasiness : I believe they rather flowed from the pleasing perception of that dear father's affections.

Though I was not, for some time, permitted to speak, my thoughts were yet at liberty, and the avenues of memory lay open to their accustomed and precious ideas. They did not, however, occur with their usual vivacity ; and the languor of my spirits saved me from an agitation, which, otherwise, I should not have been able to support.

However engaging and interesting the objects of our memory and reflection may be ; those objects that surround us, and cease not to
ob-

obtrude themselves on our senses, will in time come in for their share of our concern, and consequently abate our passion by dividing our attention.

My mother, as you know madam, is, in manners as in person, a very amiable woman. She loved me fondly it is true, but her fondness was that of reason; it reached the bounds of duty; but did not fly out into any partial excess. My father's fondness was that of passion; he lived in me and for me; and his love exceeded that of the Ptolemy, who deified his daughter after her death.

My father, by inheritance, and by the interest of his stock in the funds, had amassed a vast fortune. I was the sole heir of all his effects, and sole object of all his attachments. He did every thing about me with the assiduity of a lover; he never looked at me but with tenderness, nor ever left me but with regret. I seemed at once to constitute all the business, and all the amusement that he had upon earth.

Where

Where a person truly loves, every look and every action is expressive of love's language. It was a language which my heart was formed to understand, and which it failed not to answer. That dear parent and I often spoke to each other the tenderest things without moving our lips. He stole from me, at least, the half of my passion for your son ; and saved my life, by dividing me from the object of my affliction.

Orders had been given, throughout the family, that the name of lord Thomas should never be pronounced in my hearing. And, on my part, whenever the ideas of former scenes arose, I secretly sighed his name to myself ; and suppressed, as much as possible, every sign of concern, that I might save my dear father from his portion of my distress.

As soon as I recovered sufficiently to venture into the air, my father took me in the chariot to all the places of public resort and amusement, that, by a variety of busy and entertaining objects, he might divert and unseat my soul from the dear one on whom it had been so fatally fixed.

Sir

Sir John Elliot and his lady were, prudently, some of the last who came to congratulate my parents upon my recovery. As soon as they entered the chamber, I felt my colour come and go; but a little secret emotion of pride and shame helped me to struggle against those expressions of my concern; and having turned and smelted to a small-bottle of salts, I re-assumed the appearance of a disinterested companion!

In about a month after, I found myself as I thought grown very hale and stout; and I ventured to press my parents to return the visit of my old friends, and to take me with them.

As soon as we entered the well known door, I perceived that I altered. I was then sorry that I had engaged in this daring exploit; but shame would not let me retract; I had gone too far for that. I therefore advanced, and, with a dessembled courage, saluted sir John, his lady, and my old companions, master Harry, and the two miss Elliots. But, scarce had I sat down and reviewed the scenes of accustomed delight,
when

when a sickness came upon me ; the furniture, as I thought, began to move and swim about me, and I dropt back in my chair.

I knew nothing of what passed after, till I awoke, as I imagined, and found myself in my own bed, with my parents weeping beside me.

Ah, my dearest sir, my dearest madam, I cried, I wish I had never been born ! It ought to be the business of my life to give you pleasure ; and I am sent into the world to give you nothing but grief. I accompanied this sentiment with abundance of tears. They consoled me the best they could ; and within two months after, I was restored to a tolerable state of health and tranquillity.

During my long illness, my father had made a vow, that if it would please God to re-establish my constitution and peace of mind, he would appropriate two thousand pounds a year, toward the maintenance of fifty reduced families, who, with forty pounds each,

each, additional to their own industry, might be enabled to live comfortably, and to put up their daily prayers for my prosperity, the only return that he required at their hands.

Common beggars, however, or even people accustomed to hardships and penury, were not the intended partakers of this donation. My father had been long used to consider the value of money, and to make every pound compass what it could reach to. He therefore proposed to relieve the regrets, the distresses, the anguish of the mind, by the same means that should supply the vulgar wants of the body. He was sensible that, to persons of a certain delicacy of soul, poverty could bring no pressure like the shame of being reduced thereto, and subjected to the scorn even of those who were once below them. And farther, that to a generous and feeling heart, no misery could equal that of seeing a beloved wife or helpless progeny brought to extremity, by the fault or even misfortune of the man whose peculiar duty it was to cherish and support them.

Warm as he was on this scheme, he took me with him at different times, to several villages and outlets within ten miles of London, and there bargained for and rented a number of commodious houses, which he destined to the reception of his future colony.

He had told me how deeply I was interested in this project; and, by degrees, he engaged me to be equally solicitous in the execution.

Successful love, and griefs of every kind, have not on earth so formidable a foe as business. In time I became easy, and at length I became chearful; but then it was a chearfulness of tranquillity, not of joy. My little airs and vivacities were fled for ever; and there still lay a weight at the bottom of my heart, that restrained my topmost spirits from rising into merriment.

As soon as my father thought me sufficiently restored for venturing on a journey, we set out on our expedition for supplying
our

our fifty houses with the proper inhabitants ; and in this case, we acted like the projectors of Blenheim, who first built the bridge, and were after at vast cost in bringing the water to it.

We never travelled above fifty miles from London, nor stayed out for more than a fortnight at a time, except when my mother was with us. And thus, in several deliberate and agreeable jaunts, we, in less than three years, made up our quantum of worthy dependants.

As I kept a regular journal book, in which I entered the various occurrences during our travels ; I can with truth assure your ladyship, that, of the said fifty families, there are several whose real histories contain distresses and incidents much more interesting and entertaining than those of our yearly cluster of novels, that rarely seem to have any intention save to waste or kill the time of those who are enemies to sentiment and reflection.

At

At better leisure, your ladyship may command a detail of such matters ; for the present, I shall barely give you a sample of our adventures in this way.

We were returning to town from our last expedition, when within a quarter of a mile of Epsom, even the town of the fatal quarrel between our dear friends, we overtook a crowd of people all in clamour and bustle. We stopt ; but the noises were so loud and confused, that we could hear nothing distinctly, till my ear was arrested by accents of acquainted distress. I stretched my head from the chariot window, and perceived a young girl of very extraordinary appearance ; she had no cap on, her fine hair flew neglected about her shoulders, and her gown was a compound of old particoloured silks. The distraction of her air, the wringing of her hands, and desperation of her aspect, instantly struck to my heart. But, how was I affected, when I heard her repeatedly exclaim, O, my mother, my mother, my father, my dear father ! where would they take you from me ? what will become of you, what will

will become of me? I shall die, I shall run mad; my mother, my father, Oh! Oh!

My father, naturally tender, had been also attentive. He hastened out of the chariot: Stay here, JULIET, said he, till I step and inquire into the meaning of this tumult.

Mean while, I threw open the door on my side, and ordered one of the footmen to bring the girl to me. As one who drowns and catches at air, she flew to the summons. While she looked eagerly at me, Come up my dear, said I, come up and tell me what grieves you; I will relieve you if I can. O, madam, she cried, and dropt on her knees in the dirt, have you pity indeed, is there any pity in the world? I have no friend on earth, none but my father and mother; and my mother is dying; and they are tearing my father from me, I don't know where.

Here I gave her my hand, and helped her into the chariot. I embraced and held her a long time to my bosom. My heart had known much anguish, and found a sister heart in this unhappy girl.

What a sweet consolation was this for the young creature ! How precious does even a single friend become, at a time that we think ourselves abandoned by the world !

I asked her who was her father, and she pointed to a man who stood in the crowd. I then desired the coachman to put forward a little. I saw my father expostulating with the officers and neighbours ; and near him stood a tall genteel looking man, whose air, aspect, and attire, presented the most striking picture of famine and wretchedness that eye had ever seen. His feet had partly made their way through an old pair of shoes and blackish silk stockings ; on his head was a covering that had been a laced hat ; and his cloaths, that were now of a weather-beaten brown, gave evidence here and there that they had once been black velvet.

Was not all this very ridiculous ?—O no, madam ; this was not the affectation, but sad necessity of finery : it was gentility in ruins ; and had something more dreary and saddening in the survey, than death itself.

Where

Where is your mother, my dear, said I to my new companion ? There madam, she answered, in yonder little house within the fields ; but she is either dead or dying.

My father, said I, will stay here and take care of your dada ; shall you and I run and see what we can do for your mother ? Yes, yes, madam, said she in a crazy kind of rapture : but, I see that you are not one of us ; I know you now, I know you now ! and so she broke into tears.

Here I jumped out of the chariot, ordered the coachman to attend my father, and desired the other servants to follow me with some cakes and cordials.

We flew across the fields like two little lapwings, the servants could hardly keep us in sight, and in a very few minutes we reached the cottage.

The poor woman lay half on the ground, and half on a sorry bed, and still continued in the fit into which she had fallen on the caption of her husband. We threw water in her face and chafed her temples ; and, as I held my bottle of
salts

halts for some time to her nose, she gave a heavy sigh and opened her eyes.

But then, to see the alarming transports of my young friend, I thought she must utterly have lost her senses. She jumped, she flew about the house like a mad thing, crying, My mother is alive, my mother is alive, as sure as day!

Ah JULIET, JULIET, exclaimed lady CRANFIELD, love has made you the sweetest storyteller in the universe; you speak and look nothing but feelings and sentiment. The heart that has not, like yours, been wrought and tempered by distress, can never flow through the lips in such affecting elocution. But—give me leisure to wipe my eyes, and then go on, my child, my angel!

The enraptured daughter, madam, then returned to me. She threw herself at my feet, she grasped my legs, my hands, and I verily thought the little life of her would have flown out at her eyes.

Mean while the servants came with the wines and confections. We raised our patient upon her bed, and having got a spoon, I prevailed on
her

her to swallow a little of the cordial. She gazed eagerly and wildly at me, but soon appeared something consoled by the compassion which she could not but observe in my aspect. CHARLOTTE, said she at length, where is your father? He is well, madam, I answered, and in friendly hands; and we will go to him if you please, as soon as you have strengthened yourself by a little refreshment. I then persuaded her to take some cake soaked in sack. She looked at me as if she would look me through. Miss, said she, with a delicate kind of address, I know not who you can be: it is long since I have seen any one deserving the title of human; you, surely, must be something more.

Here I threw my left arm about her neck, and leaning over I pressed her, and shed a tear on her hand. Do angels weep, said she? I thought they had no sense of the miseries of our mortality. Come then, she cried, thou blessed of our Lord, and attempted to rise; let us go, that I may have the comfort of breathing my last sigh in the presence of a husband, too tenderly beloved to permit me to survive him. Stay, madam, said I, you are yet too faint to walk. John, go and bring the chariot; you shall have

a conveyance, madam, that is better suited to the weakness of your present condition.

John had not gone far, when he met the chariot which my father had sent after me, with directions to come to the George Inn. We quickly got in, my two companions and I, and in a quarter of an hour arrived at the place appointed. But sure, nothing could equal the astonishment of the people ; they gathered, gaping in wonder, to see what sort of company I had got in my chariot ; so uncommon, so astonishing, is a little matter of charity and condescension ! But, think you, madam, that they shamed me ? no, truly. I fear I was rather too proud, and inwardly triumphed too highly on the occasion.

Having ordered a room, I took each of my friends by the hand and led them up stairs. Mrs. Sternhold was tolerably decent, in a clean though coarse linen gown ; but my ambition strait prompted me to set forth, to the best advantage, the new sister of my affections.

I ordered one of the servants to bring up my portmanteau, and another to go and inquire what
was

was become of my father and Mr. Sternhold. This being done, I set about my operations. Charlotte was within a year or two of my own age. I locked the door ; I took out linen and a suit of my own cloaths. I washed and combed her, and set her fine hair in the best order imaginable. I then began to dress her : here her mother interposed ; but that did not signify, I would have my humour.

How delightful were the sensations that then glanced in my young heart ! I saw, as it were, a little creature in my own likeness, arising and new forming under my hands. Not Prometheus, when he had finished the frame of his first man, could have exulted more than I did ; and I became like the famous statuary, I think they call him Pygmalion, quite enamoured of my own handywork.

Indeed, Charlotte looked very lovely in her new habiliments ; and women, you know, madam, never envy beauties that are of their own bringing forth.

While this was transacting, Mrs. Sternhold looked at me, and then at her daughter with
alternate

alternate emotion. Her face was overspread with a placid serenity ; but I observed that her eyes were full, and that the tears drop by drop had moistened her apron. What is the matter madam, said I, pray what is it that disturbs you ? Nothing, miss, she replied. I am only considering how it is possible that all that is good and amiable in the circle of creation should be got together and comprised in so very little a compass ! Ah madam, said I, forbear to hurt me by your praises ; indeed they are worse than unnecessary, and I want no faults.

I had no sooner spoken, than, in the fear of having offended, I flew at her and caught her about the neck ; while she in her turn, with a grateful transport, eagerly pressed me to her bosom, and wept aloud.

Soon after, my father arrived. Sir, said I, this is good Mrs. Sternhold, and this is her very pretty daughter miss Charlotte. Madam, said my father, I bring you comfortable tidings. By the means of an old domestic of your father-in-law, I trust I shall detect this whole infernal plot. What a frightful affair this had like to have been ! to be accused of being the murderer
of

of one's own father ; could any thing be more shocking ? But do not be alarmed, madam. Your husband, as is suggested, was tempted thereto by his extreme indigence, in order the more speedily to come at the estate. But I have appointed the coroner's inquest to sit on the body of the deceased this evening, and I have also sent for all the surgeons in the neighbourhood to attend ; they will best be able to judge whether the wound was given to a living or a dead body. I will also be there to confront this wickedest of women, with the testimony of our old domestic. Assure yourself, Mrs. Sternhold, I will spare no kind of cost or application to bring this matter to a happy issue, which I am confident of effecting, and that very speedily.

O fir, O fir!—exclaimed Mrs. Sternhold—
 ſhe could no more, but ſunk on her knees, and
 broke into a paſſion of acknowledging tears.—
 Pray riſe, cried my dear and tender father ; in-
 deed you move me too much, I cannot ſtand
 this.—But my huſband, fir, my huſband,
 the kindeſt, wortheſt of huſbands ! what
 is become of him ?—He is properly accommo-
 dated, madam ; and wants for nothing but his
 Vol. I. F liberty,

liberty, which I hope to procure him within a few hours.

Here my father raised her, and turning to hide his own emotion, rung for dinner.

As soon as our several agitations were composed, My JULIET, says my father, will you introduce me to your young friend? Indeed miss Charlotte, you have a countenance that speaks a sweet and amiable heart. You affected me greatly to day, when you followed your distressed father. Will you be a sister to JULIET, my dear? will you accept of me for a second father?—O sir, answered the sensible little creature, I believe you are a father to all unhappy children.

While we sat together at dinner, Mrs. Sternhold, says my father, I have heard some anecdotes concerning you, that make me curious to learn the whole of your story; or, at least, as much thereof as I with decency may inquire, or you with prudence reveal. Sir, she readily answered, I hope you are acquainted with the most shameful part of it. After the public disgrace
of

of this day, I have nothing to disguise. But, sir, I shall comply merely to obey, and not to entertain you. Had I even the art to embellish, there is nothing to be formed out of such barren materials.

When the cloth was removed, and the wine set on table, Mrs. Sternhold began.

Mr. Dundas, sir, is my father. He has long lived in the neighbourhood of the deceased Mr. Sternhold. He is possessed of a real estate of one thousand pounds yearly income. I am his only child; and his fortune is settled, by articles of intermarriage, on the issue of my mother.

I scarce remember this mother; she died before I was five years old, and left me in the care of a decayed gentlewoman, who had served her in the double capacity of an attendant and companion.

Though my father and I lived in the same house, I was eleven years of age before I knew his face. I was perfectly well acquainted

quainted with his voice, however: it was generally loud and stormy on entering the house; and I fled from it into corners, as a fawn would fly to cover on the roaring of a lion.

Mrs. Kindly, my governess, was very tender of me. She herself had been well-educated. She instructed me in all she knew; and I was well versed in accounts, in cookery, and the French language, and far read in history and our chastest English authors, before I knew there was such a thing as a world about me.

There was an intimacy of a long standing between my husband's father and mine. An intimacy I say, sir,—for it ought not to be called by the name of friendship, when it was not connected by principles of honour or virtue.

They had, however, a proverbial apology for this sort of attachment; they were birds of a feather, and each liked in the other the faults he loved in himself.

Both

Both of them had received a school and collegiate education ; but the languages neither helped to reform their morals, or to polish their manners ; they merely served as conduits to convey to them the knowledge of the lewdness of the heathen and their gods ; and to warrant, by pagan precedents, the sensuality of christians. Perhaps this is not an uncommon case.

They had married our mothers for money ; but alas, our gentle mothers did not marry them for love ; they were yoked to these brutal husbands by tyrannical parents, and hastened to get rid of the iniquitous union by death.

My husband and I were the only lawful issue, who were left to inherit the fortunes and virtues of this pair of fathers.

As soon as the mild and decent restraint of wedlock was dissolved, they broke forth unlimited into all sorts of licentiousness. They drank and swore at large ; and broke the heads and the fences of all whom poverty had

rendered impotent. They were magistrates, men of fortune, and men of letters, but not gentlemen. They seduced as many wives and daughters as money could tempt; but they deemed that they compensated for such transgressions, by sending all strumpets, except their own, to Bridewell. Could the voice of religion, or the feelings of nature, be heard or attended to amidst such a life?

On a day that my father had appointed to spend abroad, my governess invited some female neighbours to an evening's collation. She had pranked me out in my holiday gown; the weather was pleasant; we drank tea in the garden; and I, like a bird just broke from its cage, flew here and there delighted, and played a hundred innocent gambols about the company.

Mean time my father had returned much sooner than expected, and was walking with his steward behind an adjoining hedge. He had observed all that passed, and getting round to a little summer house, called my governess to him.

Mrs.

Mrs. Kindly, said he, who is that young thing that you have got in your company? I think I never saw so sweet a child. A poor orphan, sir, who has neither father nor mother: I have taken a liking to her, and intend to leave her heir to all my little savings. Will you bring us acquainted, Mrs. Kindly? Ah sir, you know you are a very sad man, and my poor child will soon come to woman's estate. No, Mrs. Kindly, I am not so bad as that; I would rather perish than hurt such innocence as her's.

My governess then called me, and they both advanced. But, as soon as I perceived a strange man in her company, my spirits sunk at once, and I stood still through an apprehension of I knew not what.

Miss Charlotte, said my governess, kneel down and ask blessing of your good father here. At this my father started back in utter amazement, You banter, said he, endeavouring to recover himself; this cannot be my child. Indeed but she is; and what makes her

her much more valuable, she is the child of my dear deceased lady.

Here we all continued in an odd kind of situation. My father beheld and examined me with mute attention; while I, with a blushing face and throbbing heart, continued on my knees, and scarce dared to look up, from an awful sort of terror that just then seized me: for well I remembered, that it was none of those instinctive and delightful sensibilities, that children are said to feel in the presence of these substituted authors of our being.

At length I adventured a short glance, in hope of not being observed; when I perceived, that my father's lip began to tremble, and that he dropt an involuntary tear upon me. He then raised me to his arms, put his face in my little bosom to hide his emotion, and suddenly exclaimed, You are, you are my Charlotte, my precious child! but I am much unworthy of being called your father.

Ah

Ah fir, I trust that God keeps alive, in the most debauched hearts, some secret though smothered ember of goodness, whereby, with the breath of his grace at pleasure, he may rekindle and recal his lost creatures to virtue !

From that time, till near the time of my marriage, he proved indeed a father to me. Whatever liberties he might continue to indulge himself in abroad, yet, in reverence, as it seemed, to the honour of his daughter, he banished all lewdness and riot from his house. The delight, which he took in my company, insensibly stole him from bad customs and companions ; and the pleasure which he felt, in the sweet offices and tender relations between parent and child, began to open to him the gates that led to piety and peace.

Thus I daily grew in the confidence and love of my father till I was turned of the age of fifteen years.

My foster nurse, of whom I was exceedingly fond, and whom I looked upon as a sort of parent,

parent, lived in a neat little farm house, about a quarter of a mile distant; and her I used to visit frequently, either in company with Mrs. Kindly, or attended by my favourite maid.

One evening, as I was entering her cottage, I perceived that I had forgot my work and huff, and sent my maid back for them. I then stepped in; but, before I could look about me, my nurse flew to me, and catching me about the neck, How happy am I now, my dear miss Charlotte! she exclaimed; I have now got all my treasure together. Here is your brother, my love, pointing to a youth who stood at some distance. You are the only two that were ever suckled on these breasts; my flesh and blood is in you both. What a sweet couple you are! what a pity you should ever be parted! Could I but live to dandle your little one in my old arms, methinks I should die quite contented and happy.

These apostrophes of my good nurse were not without their effect. I cast on this new relation a reconnoitring glance; and, quick as a glimpse of lightning, I was struck with an
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intimation, that we were made, or that I wished we were made, for each other.

Under the colour of this new kindred, so well accounted for by our nurse, this young gentleman and I commenced a very speedy and tender intercourse. We did not, indeed, make any formal appointments; but it was wonderful to think how often we used to meet at our nurse's, as it were by mere chance. This good woman, I knew not why, became vastly dearer to me than ever; fresh pretences daily occurred for going to her house; and the intermediate time seemed to me a vacuity, or rather a heavy burden that I wished to be rid of.

In the mean time, young Mr. Sternhold was too respectful, or too bashful, to make any express declaration of his passion. We understood one another perfectly well, however; we conversed by a language much more intelligible, and more to be credited than that of words; and when we came to express our sentiments, we found that we had nothing new to tell each other on the subject; but the repetition was extremely delicious, and love arose in my
young

young heart, as an early sun, enlightning, chearing, and beautifying every object about me.

My lover, for many years, had been wholly a stranger to the place of his nativity ; his father had sent him early to school, and from thence to college : and he was but lately returned from finishing his studies. His studies, however, were not the makers of his morals ; he had inherited from his mother her gentle, her delicate and affectionate disposition : to hear him, was instruction ; to behold him, was delight ; and to know him, and not love him, was, as I thought, a proof of utter insensibility.

I say not this, my honoured sir, to exalt myself or my husband to your esteem ; I say it, merely to apologize for my passion in his favour, which, otherwise, might be deemed even worse than premature. At length our propensities to each other became as that of the star and magnet, irresistible, irremovable ; and, in the presence of our nurse, we plighted our vows, that no authority of parents, no vicissitudes of fortune, no constraint or power on earth, should ever compel us to give or yield our hand to another.

Ah

Ah sir, on the very evening of that day, in which our lips had barely affirmed the vows of our souls, my father came up to my chamber, and, in a manner as unconcerned as though he were telling me how he had jockeyed his neighbour in the sale of a horse, said he had made a great match for me, and that I must be married to one of his neighbours the next morning.

I instantly turned pale; a weakness went through all my joints; and, had I not been uncommonly healthful at the time, I should questionless have dropt senseless or dead at his foot.

Sir, said I at length, plucking up a little courage, at present I cannot marry; neither will I ever marry, till I see the man that I can like. O, said he, deliberately and maliciously smiling, we can readily find means to tame a rebel. You are an heiress, Charlotte, and must not be wedded in the common way: you are as one of the princesses of the blood; you must be yoked by proxy, according to your state and station, and not according to the loves and likings of a silly and conceited girl. Sir, said I

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peremptorily, I will not be a prostitute ; all the fathers in the world shall never rank me in that class ; for every woman is a prostitute who gives up her body unaccompanied by her heart. You impudent gipsy, he cried, would you make your mother a strumpet ? She loved me not, neither before nor after our marriage ; and so you, I find, would illegitimate your own birth. But digest matters as well as you may for this night, your marriage in the morning is as fixed as fate ; and so saying, he flung out of my chamber.

I then fell along the floor, but not wholly deprived of sense ; that would have been happiness, in comparison of what I felt. I remained partly awake, but awake only to horror and desperation. Dagger, poison, or quick thunder, a sudden death of any kind, was all my wish. My governess and my maid came in in a hurry, and Mrs. Kindly wept tenderly and abundantly over me ; but alas, she could say nothing to comfort me, for she could do nothing to relieve me. They undressed and put me to bed, and all the night I lay sleepless, and in agonies not to be conceived. Yes, I would cry at intervals,

vals, my love, my David, my darling, I will still be constant and faithful to you ! not all the racks, the tortures and engines in the world, shall ever be able to tear a limb of me from my beloved !

In the morning, my father had me forcibly dressed in all my odious ornaments and detestable finery. Sir, I obstinately cried, you may as well desist, this will not answer your ends ; disinherit me and welcome ; drive me forth to beggary, to less than a morsel of bread ; but you never shall compel me to a bed that my soul abominates ; I would rather lie down in the midst of snakes and vipers !—He looked wrath and hatred, but said not a word.

When the coach drove up to the door, my father grasped my arm, and pushed me, and authoritatively ordered me to get in ; but I struggled and peremptorily refused to obey : whereupon he took out his handkerchief and bound my arms together, and ordering me to be lifted into the carriage, he sat down beside me.

During

During a journey of a few miles, we never once opened our lips to each other. I determined however, within myself, to prevent the power of speech, by biting off my tongue, rather than utter the word yes to any man living except my David.

As we approached the house of doctor Dawson, the gouty rector of the parish, a glance shewed me, on one side, another coach coming up on a different road, and preceded by a car whereon a criminal was tied, in order, as I imagined, to be brought before the magistrate. Alas, said I to myself, would to heaven that, how great soever your punishment may be, it might be exchanged for mine! so apt is misery to think itself beyond all cases and conditions, the most desolate and most miserable.

My father stepped out, and I was carried into the presence of the reverend doctor Dawson, who painfully sat in an easy and very stately armed chair. Doctor, said my father, I have brought to you a young reprobate, a rebel that refuses to submit to any authority, whether it be from nature, from her king, or her God.

While

While my father was speaking, another party was brought in, bound hand and foot, and equally accused before the judgment seat of the dignified doctor Dawson. At a look I was convinced that it was my David himself; but, though my throbbings ceased not to beat, I did my very utmost to suppress my emotions. My lover, on perceiving me, gave a shout of triumphant joy; but I turned away, and would not seem to take any notice of him.

How comes it to pass, sir, that though your sex have reason, sense, and solidity quite away to themselves, yet ours are vastly more quick, apprehensive, and provident, on any sudden emergence? I instantly penetrated through this divine and wonderful dispensation of Providence; my heart blessed him in secret; but I thought it best, for a time, to suppress any open expressions of my acknowledgement.

My lover soon caught his lesson, and we turned away and appeared quite averse to each other; while doctor Dawson preached to us a very expatiating lecture on the necessity of mortifying

our carnal desires, and of yielding them to the dictates of obedience and purity.

We were brought together, our hands were joined, and we muttered some words inarticulately, I know not what, while our faces were designedly and hypocritically averted from each other.

We were carried home. Old Mr. Sternhold, and the whole country gathered to our house; and all would have been a consummation of joy and festivity, had they not been damped by the demeanour of the bridegroom and bride. While we secretly summed up in our hearts a thousand fold all their enjoyments.

When, according to custom, we were undressed and put to bed, my David turned cautiously and tremblingly toward me, and I grasped him to my bosom with unspeakable delight. But, again, putting him from me, My David, said I, we have this day been blessed with the most extraordinary instance of God's gracious intervention, that perhaps ever happened in the circle
of

of existence. Do you remember the story of Sarah and Tobias? They also loved to excess; and yet, in the consideration of what God had done for them, they arose and fell on their knees, and promised that they would not be the children of lust or concupiscence; and I am told, that, for three days and three longer nights, they abstained from the gratification of any connubial privilege. Let us do the same, my David; and God, mayhap, may bless us, even as he blessed his own Tobias and Sarah.

O my angel, he cried, catching at my hand, but not daring to touch any other part of my person, I here vow that I will ever be conformable to all your desires, however repugnant they may prove to my passions or inclinations. And I exceedingly rejoice, that my Charlotte, while she mortifies her David, gives him still the greater cause to affect and revere her.

Marriage, sir, almost as surely as death, puts a stop to the progress of all story-tellers: however, I must go on a little farther.

During the nine years in which we continued with my father, I was delivered of several children

dren ; but none lived except the eldest, who has the honour to sit in your presence.

At length my father, being quite weary of the restraint under which our company had laid him, and impatient to give a loose to his accustomed debaucheries, sought occasion to pick a quarrel with my husband, and thereupon desired us to depart his house.

We accordingly removed to the house of my father-in-law, who, for near three years, demeaned himself toward us with tenderness and generosity.

One day, however, being abroad upon one of his raking rambles, while he was taking some liberties with a woman in the neighbourhood, a blustering young man broke in suddenly upon them, and demanded, with a volley of oaths and execrations, how he dared to take indecent freedoms with his kinswoman. He then drew his sword, and swore that Mr. Sternhold should fight him on the spot ; for, that nothing but immediate death, or immediate marriage, could make reparation for the injury he had done.

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An evil conscience, sir, I fancy, is no great promoter of courage. Mr. Sternhold, wholly intimidated, preferred marriage to death ; and on that very night presented us with a step-dame.

For a few weeks we lived together in a kind of reserved and cautious tranquillity, till our new cousin, the bravo, began to frequent the house, and to assume authority over the servants, and intermeddle in all concerns. My husband, there-upon, pleased with an opportunity of revenging his father's quarrel, took the bully to question. High words arose, they both flew to their swords, and my David ran his Goliath quite through the right shoulder.

We all ran in at the sound of the clashing of swords ; and it was then that our step-mother stood confessed to view. She grew utterly outrageous : she cursed and swore in terms that seemed no strangers to her tongue. She then dropt on her knees and vowed, with horrid imprecations, that she would give her husband no rest, either at bed or at board, while the murderer, his son, should continue in the house. It will be my turn next to be sure, she cried, and
your

your own will soon follow ; that the parricide, through your blood, may come at your estate.

Mr. Sternhold, all alarmed and terrified, then called his son aside. David, said he, I must have peace at any rate. You see, therefore, my child, there is a necessity that we should part ; but I will allow you handsomely for your maintenance ; and so saying, he put twenty guineas into his hand, being the very last we ever saw of his money. My David then turned, and departed without a word ; though not without a tear, being grieved at the state to which his father had reduced himself by his pusillanimity.

On the next day, my husband went and farmed the little lodge, wherein your angel of a daughter found me this morning. The day following he went to pay his respects to my precious father, even Mr. Dundas : but there, all access was utterly precluded. He was besieged and in the custody of a large seraglio of strumpets, whose business it was to provoke and stimulate his impotence, by methods too shocking for terms to express, or thought to conceive.

Thus

Thus shut out, on all sides, by those on whom nature had given us a claim for sustenance, we lived frugally for six months on the slender means we had. My David then attempted to apply to his father for the stipulated maintenance ; but alas, neither messenger nor letter could reach him. Our step-dame had introduced a whole group of new cousins, by whose assistance she lorded it over house and lands, and held my father-in-law in worse than Egyptian bondage.

Then it was, that our distress grew weighty and more weighty ; and daily sunk and crushed us into penury, into bitterness. Perhaps our case was the most extraordinary that ever happened. We were, each of us, heir to a large and affluent fortune ; and yet were perishing, with our little one, for want of a morsel of bread. We had disposed of the last of our moveables, and even of the very last of our cloaths that were saleable ; when this morning, before day, a messenger came in heat to inform my husband, that his father was dying and desired to speak with him, in all haste.

My

My David roused in a hurry and flew to the summons : I also rose and dressed, and sat palpitating and expecting ; when, on the advance of the day, I started up at the sound of a shout of lamentation ; and quickly after a number of my poor female neighbours rushed in, and told me, that my husband had been seized, and was carrying off to jail, for the murder of his father.

Though I was perfectly assured, as I was of existence, that it was impossible for my David to be guilty of the crime imputed ; yet it instantly occurred, that Naboth, and even our Christ was condemned upon false evidence ; and, as my terrors became insupportable, I fainted away.

Here the gentlewoman closed her history, for which my father thanked her, and gave her repeated assurances of his farther service and regards. Then rising, he hastily went to meet the inquest appointed on the body of the deceased ; and left us all in fears and hopes and impatience of his speedy return.

In about an hour after tea, my father came back with a face of triumph. Madam, said he,
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I bring you the happiest of tidings ! you are now in the possession of fourteen hundred pounds a year ; and the wretch your step-mother, yet that may give little joy to one of your disposition, is cut off from among the living by a most fearful death. But madam, said he, sitting down, I will tell you the whole affair in the order that it happened.

When I got to Mr. Sternhold's, I found three surgeons before me, and two more soon joined them ; the jury also began to gather apace. I then ordered all, except your step-dame and the domestics, the surgeons and the jury, to depart the house, and I desired the surgeons to proceed on their business.

On examining the great wound in the side of the deceased, they were of opinion that it was made by a case-knife ; and they unanimously agreed, that the said wound had been given to a dead body, and that no blood had ever flowed from the same ; forasmuch as the gash was no way discoloured or enflamed, and the blood appeared to be equally coagulated throughout the body.

I then sent for Arnold, the grey domestic of your father-in-law, and giving him the book, he clearly deposed that, on the night preceding, having heard that his old master was exceedingly ill, love and curiosity emboldened him to open the door cautiously ; and peeping in, he perceived his master in the gaspings and last struggles of death, with his wife and her two women sitting beside the bed ; whereupon he withdrew, affrighted and grieved : and that his young master had not been sent to, for several hours after.

Upon these concurring evidences, the jury brought in their verdict, that the deceased had died a natural death ; and that the wound had been given to the dead body, through some very wicked and malicious intention.

I then commanded Mrs. Sternhold, and her confederate maids, to be taken into strict custody ; and, calling for pen and paper, I wrote their mittimus, and with a severe accent ordered them instantly to jail.

Then it was that her effrontery, with all her arts and subterfuges, at once abandoned her to justice :

justice : she sunk all astonished and distracted at my feet, Woman, said I sternly, you will be condemned of petty treason ; you will suffer a fearful death for the murder of your husband : and you ought to suffer a hundred deaths more fearful, for the intentional murder of your innocent step-son.

She then broke into lamentation ; she cried aloud for mercy ; and, on her knees, offered to avow the whole of her guilt.

On the first night, said she, in which I entered the house of my husband, I took an instant antipathy to his son. For, I observed he had a distant look and a penetrating eye, and I considered him as the future watch upon all my actions. I saw that his interests and my interests were incompatible ; and so my hatred to him increased and became stronger and stronger, till it burned as a hidden fire within my bosom. In the mean time, I conceived hopes of supplanting and disinheriting him ; and, for that purpose, I exerted the utmost of my art, to cajole and get the ascendant over my husband. I knew that, by law, I should be entitled to a full third of my husband's

husband's great possessions ; but all this appeared as nothing, or less than nothing, in my eye, while I reflected that his son's portion would be twofold my dowry. This thought sat, like a vulture, continually gnawing at my heart ; and, had he continued in the house, I should certainly have been tempted to remove him by poison or other means.

Just then, young Mr. Sternhold came in ; when, giving a loud shriek, she vehemently cried out, Take him from me, take him from me ! and uttering shriek after shriek, she was seized with an apoplexy, or sudden suffocation, and dropping down . . . , she grew black in the face, glared frightfully about, and with a deep groan expired.

I protest I was deeply affected. Humanity, however averse to the object, must feel for human nature in such calamitous circumstances. Your kind hearted David was as solicitous as any of us, to bring his enemy back to life ; but all our efforts were ineffectual.

Soon after I gathered, from the confession of the parties to this horrid conspiracy, that
this

this designing woman, thinking that no person was privy to the death of her husband, save herself and her maids, had bribed them largely to conceal it ; and ordering them to bring her a bowl of the blood of some poultry, she made an incision in the side of the insensible carcass, and then drenched the shirt and sheets all about with the blood.

She thereupon sent in haste for her unwary step-son, and on his arrival whisperingly told him that his father had just fallen asleep, but desired him to step in softly, and sit down by the fire till he should awaken.

After he had patiently sat for near an hour, she followed him in on tiptoe, and moving to the bed, gently opened the curtain ; and, in a soft voice, demanded of the deceased how he found himself ; but feigning surprise, on her not receiving an answer, she violently tossed back the curtains, and throwing open the bed clothes, she vociferated murder, murder ! in repeated shouts and screams.

On this alarm the whole family crowded hastily into the room; the cry of murder became general; the neighbourhood were roused thereby, and ran from all parts to the house; and your silently astonished David was seized, and, by order of his step-dame, hurried away to be lodged in gaol.

I do not think, however, that she intended to carry this affair to extremity. She could not but be sensible, that the death of your husband would not avail for investing her with the estate, as new heirs would arise on the lapse of his title. I rather imagine that she proposed, by this stratagem, first to secrete to herself her husband's whole personal fortune; and afterwards to intimidate her step-son into a composition, perhaps for more than a moiety of the landed interest. But the overseeing friend of innocence and virtue has suddenly cut her and her machinations in sunder.

In some time after my father had closed his relation, Mr. Sternhold came to us, genteely dressed in a suit of black: he had an exceeding comely person, and his aspect was still more engaging. He approached; and
bow-

bowing down almost to prostration, he fervently kissed the hands of my father and your JULIÉT: This, this, he cried, is the altar, the inestimable altar, on which the whole that I have and am ought to be laid for an oblation.

He then put his hand into his bosom and took out a diamond necklace and solitaire: These, said he, I found (and he wiped his eye) in a secret drawer of my dearest mother's little ivory cabinet; with these she was mournfully adorned the night of her nuptials; and I became the offspring, as well of her tears, as her affections. These, miss, you must accept, as matters that I cannot keep; for I will not be tempted to add another tear to the showers that I have shed to the memory of that dear departed saint.—Nay, madam, you must accept them, comparatively trifling as they are. Should I look to pay you as you ought to be paid, I must find out larger estates, and worlds of better value, to compensate for the lives, the credits, and fortunes, that your father has this day restored to me and mine.

I was affected to passion, madam, by the nobleness of his sentiments. I took the jewels
from

from his hand, and dropped a tear upon them. You say right, fir, I cried, I will not be put off with such treasures as these ; you must go to another world for the jewels that I require ; you have accordingly brought them to me from above, and the sense you have shewn of what we wished to do for you makes a dear and a sweet hoard of riches to my heart.

I then took this sumptuous offering, and, having fastened it about the reluctant neck of the amiable little Charlotte, I kissed her, and said, You must wear these, my love, for the sake of your friends ; and, at times, when you put them on, be pleased to think of your grand-mamma, and also of your little sister.

Here Mr. and Mrs. Sternhold turned suddenly from us, and hastily withdrew, together, to an adjoining chamber ; while my father eagerly clasped and long pressed me to his bosom, crying, O my JULIET, my wealth and jewels, and all abundant ornaments, how dost thou daily enrich the soul of thy father !

In about an hour our friends returned, and we sat down silently together ; when my father
being

being uneasy in the apprehension of farther acknowledgments, endeavoured to put his company upon a different subject. I wish to know, madam, said he, what we now can or ought to do with your father, the naughty Mr. Dundas.—Alas sir, she answered, there is nothing to be done with him ; such a sinner, at his age, is questionless irreclaimable. I know not that, madam : sober sinners, in the general, make but very sober saints ; while profligates, like spendthrifts who have cast away nearly their whole estates, set out in an adverse course, with tenfold diligence and saving. With respect to his fortune, madam, if his fortune would content you, I think your husband legally entitled to take him into custody on an action of lunacy ; for surely, a man, who acts so utterly opposite to reason and nature, cannot be supposed to be in his right senses.

O no sir, no, exclaimed Mr. Sternhold, I will never do the smallest violence or discredit to the man, who has done me the grace and benefit of bringing my Charlotte into the world.

Worthy man, amiable friend ! cried out my father, his eye glistening while he grasped and held

held him by the hand, you speak the sense of my inmost soul. Yet something ought to be attempted; we must surely do something toward the recovery of our father from this his lost estate. Those pitiable females too, the associates of his profligacy, I wish to reclaim them also from their present state of prostitution. It is evident to me, that lust has little to do in subjecting them to the wanton dotage of your father; his time of life must have reduced him to a state of impotence; but his power of bestowing food and raiment has tempted them to submit to any other conditions he should be pleased to impose. But I am determined, if possible, to judge of these matters by my own eye and observation. While you go, Mr. Sternhold, to order matters for your father's funeral, I will enterprise an admission into Mr. Dundas's enchanted castle; and, if I get access to him, I will present him with a card of solemn invitation to the interment of his old friend and companion in iniquity: I think it cannot fail of suddenly recalling him to seriousness and reflection; and reflection may lead onward to reformation.

Late in the evening, my father attired himself in a porter's frock and apron, and wrapping his cloak about him, he stepped into the chariot and departed on his expedition. Sometime before supper, Mr. Sternhold and he, severally, returned to their company.

As a callow pigeon, in the absence of its sustaining parent, I remained impatient and anxious while my father was away; and the apprehensions of what might happen, rose as distressing to my imagination, as though he stood wounded or nearly murdered before me.

On seeing him enter, before I flew to him, I cast upon him a glance of quick and earnest inquisition; but observing him smile, I threw my tears behind me, and instantly kindled into new life and spirits.

When we had all joyfully congratulated him on his return, he perceived our impatience to know what had passed, and immediately sat down to gratify our curiosity.

As soon as I arrived within sight of the fortress, I left my carriage and cloak and servants in waiting, and walked soberly along to reconnoitre the place of my destined assault. The house was circled by a moat, quite impassible, at least to visitants; and over the moat a wooden bridge was laid, to be occasionally taken up or let down at pleasure. I advanced to cross the bridge, but was stopped by a gate strongly bolted on the farther side. I then looked about for a knocker, or handle or string to a bell, but none such was to be found. At length, I perceived a little horn that hung along side a post, and, putting it to my mouth, I made many an effort, before I could enforce it to any utterance. Happily, at last, it sounded aloud, and a bushy head of grizzled hair thrust itself forth from one of the upper casements, What is your business, cried the watcher? to which question I answered, by holding up my card, and facing it with a couple of crowns which I caused to glitter in his eye. He then looked about on all sides, and asked if there were any other persons behind me? When I assured him

him to the contrary, he came down and let me in, but barred the gate behind me.

I then gave him the money, and he offered to take the card to his master, but I told him that I was ordered to deliver it into Mr. Dundas's own hand; and I promised him another crown if he would conduct me to his presence. He hesitated, but at length consented. He then led me up two flights of stairs, and, leaving me in a lobby, went into his master. After some time, he opened a door and beckoned me to step forward. I bowed, as I entered a spacious and well furnished apartment. I saw Mr. Dundas, at the upper end, in a rich undress, and carelessly reclined on a Turkish sofa, while his nymphs, to the number of about thirty, sat before him round a table, regaling on a cold collation, and all dressed in a uniform of snow white muslin.

I advanced and presented him with my card, when, putting on his spectacles, he started and seemed much shocked as he read. At length, looking at me, What did our friend

Sternhold die of? said he,—Of old age, sir,—You lie, he quickly replied; he was scarce so old as myself: but I suppose, you were sent to intimate that my turn comes next.—Well then, my girls, let us eat and drink to day, for to-morrow we die.—You fellow, begone, return to your employers; tell them what you have seen; and say that we do not chuse to leave a feast, in order to go to a funeral.—I bowed in silence, and withdrew.

On my word, Mrs. Sternhold, continued my father, archly smiling, Mr. Dundas, in his way, is a man of excellent taste; I question if the haram of the Aga, or of Reis Effendi, is supplied with so elegant a collection of females.

Ah sir, cried Mrs. Sternhold, did I not tell you that he was hardened in sin, quite callous and irreclaimable? Well, well, said my father, perhaps we may have another cast for that matter. In all events I am determined to assault his castle, and to deliver his princesses from their present state of enchantment.

In the mean time, we ought to prepare a place for their reception : for it would be a shocking affair indeed, to turn them loose again into the world, as well to the confirmation of their own ruin, as to the ruin of all those whom their charms or their arts might have power to seduce.

As our host just then came in, my father asked him if he knew of e'er a roomy house in the town that was to be let. Yes sir, said he, there is a large one of three stories, in which the deceased Mrs. Vanleur lately kept a boarding school ; the furniture is not yet removed ; and I am told that it might be had on very moderate terms. Pray step then, said my father, and take it for me directly.

And now, Mr. Sternhold, continued my father, if I can prevail for the separation of Mr. Dundas from his fair associates, will you assist me toward their maintenance, and the rent of their new assylum ? Sir, he readily answered, as the whole benefit will be mine, I will chearfully be at the whole expence. Well then, replied my father, we will divide the cost between us.

I think about five hundred pounds yearly will reach the extent of our project. Pray do you know of any pious and poor clergyman in the country, to whom we might do a service, by placing him, at a certain salary, as instructor and superintendant over our new sort of seraglio? Mr. Ruxon, sir, the curate, lives within a few doors; his aspect and whole appearance instantly and undeniably pronounce his character. Out of a parish, under-rated at four hundred pounds annual income, he gets a sorry stipend of forty pounds for doing the duties of a grudging and distant rector. But the pleasure he takes in his office makes his abundant reward; and he deems himself over affluent in the good things of a world, in which his divine master had not where to lay his head. It is wonderful to conceive how, out of this yearly pittance, he maintains a wife and nine children, without any appearance of want being seen in their apparel, or heard of in their complaints: indeed I think them the most contented and happiest of all families beneath the moon; for a sustaining God is with them, and his peace and love is in their hearts, and around their board and their beds. Neither does this good man confine himself to
the

the providing for his own household ; out of his little his hand is ever open to impart of that little, and he doubles the gift by enriching it with his blessing. In truth, had it not been for the bounty which I derived from his poverty, my wife, and I, and our little Charlotte, must have perished.

I am quite enraptured, cried my father, with the character that you give me of this primitive apostle. If our project should succeed, we will settle upon him a salary of fourscore pounds a year, in recompence of his endeavours to recall our stray sheep to the shepherd of souls. If you please I will instantly attend you to his house, and there apprize him of the matters that we have in hand.

On the day after the interment of the deceased, very early in the morning, my father and Mr. Ruxon, attended by constables and servants, went to reconnoitre the scene of their intended assault ; for my father was determined, at all events, as a magistrate and one of the quorum, to depopulate the seraglio of the gallant Mr. Dundas.

As they approached the castle, they perceived that the drawbridge was let down and the gate already open; and that the women came forth one after another, each with a bundle under her arm. Thereupon, he ordered the constables and servants to keep aloof, and waited till he saw that the objects of his attention had assembled, and stood consulting together in the lawn. He then went up and addressed them, with a voice and aspect of affectionate compassion.

My unhappy sisters, said he, I pity you from my soul, and am also desirous of serving you to the best of my power. Do not think me then unfriendly or impertinent in my enquiry, when I request to know of you whereto you are bound, and what farther course of life you propose to pursue?

Alas sir, answered an elegant and modest looking young creature, you have seen from whence we came; we cannot conceal our character; and yet, in truth, appearances make much more against us than facts: nay, there are some among us, who, heretofore, betrayed by perfidy,

dy, or undone by surprize, earnestly wished to return to virtue and reputation ; but, like miserable Esau, found no place for acceptance, though we sought it with many tears.

They must be savages indeed, replied my father, who could find in their heart to reject so amiable a penitent. But, as I already demanded, pray, what is your purpose, whither do ye intend to go ?

Ah, sir ! she cried, you cannot but be sensible, that there is no whither for us, no home, no harbour, no road or way upon earth ; they are all shut and barred against us : neither will the world afford us a morsel of bread, except on the condition of that very prostitution which first caused our ruin. Hence, we are the most miserable and most desolate of living creatures ; when thoughtless, mad with merriment ; when reflecting, in despair. O, think not worthy sir, that our course of life is a matter of choice ; indeed we detest, we loath it, we prefer death to it ; and we would this minute, as far as we could, put an end to our own existence, if any hope was left for us in a future eternity.

Pray,

Pray what is your name, my girl? Guinnifred, sir, so please you.--Ask no farther, I beseech you; for I am unhappily allied to persons who, by no means, deserve to be partakers in my shame—But, if that gentleman is a clergyman, as the reverence of his appearance at a distance seems to say, send him instantly to Mr. Dundas; the wretch I doubt is breathing his last.

Mr. Ruxon thereupon hastened into the house, while my father continued to address the assembly.

You say, my sisters, that you are altogether destitute and forlorn, rejected and cast out by a cruel and unfeeling world, and that you know not where to procure a morsel of deserved bread; and, indeed, this is your true and very pitiable case. Ye also say, that ye look back, with abhorrence, on the base and infamous way of life to which you have been reduced. What then would ye do for an honest and generous master, who should clothe and sustain you, without requiring any lewd or degrading conditions at your hands?

O, my lord, exclaimed Guinnifred, we would do all things for such a master, that he could in honesty exact; we would work our fingers to the bone for him, we would bless and adore him almost equal with our God!

Very well, cried my father, I here hire and engage you as the future and faithful bondwomen of your master and my master; and so saying, he put a guinea into the hand of each, being nine and twenty in number. But remember, continued my father, that I do not hire you in my own name. I hire you in the name of Christ, of my God and your God; and you must covenant, on your part, to live a chaste, sober, and penitent life; and he covenants, on his part, to supply you in this present life with all necessary things, and to enrich you hereafter with uncountable treasures, where the eternity of his service will be perfect freedom.—If ye accept the conditions, then follow me!—So saying, he led the way, and they crowded after him like a flock of poultry after the hand of their feeder.

As soon as he arrived at the place of their destination, he found Mrs. Sullivan standing at the door,

door, a poor but respectable widow, whom Mr. Ruxon had recommended for the pious and worthy abbess of this extraordinary convent. Good mother, said he, be pleased to take these my beloved sisters to your care ; and pray shew them their apartments, and order breakfast to be in readiness, while I step and bring my daughter to shew her the new charge that I have brought upon her.

I went at my father's request, but with reluctance, I confess : the company of a set of creatures, whose crime my soul abhorred, was grating to my apprehension. I went I say, however, and, on our entering the parlour, we found them seated in order about two joined tables. They all bashfully and respectfully rose on our appearance ; but my father prayed them to be reseated, and ordered Mrs. Sullivan and me to serve the tea and coffee at either end of the tables. I obeyed, but cast a timorous and disgusted look about. But, scarce had my eyes returned with intelligence, when I was suddenly and wonderfully reconciled to our guests. Their diffident, their abased, and mortified demeanour, instantly turned my indignation to compassion and tenderness,

derness. Ah, said I to myself, may there not be a merit in the consciousness of humbled guilt, that exalts it even above the self-sufficiency of conscious virtue?

To say the truth, for so many, I never saw so handsome a set of women got together; and some of them were of a delicate turn of manners, and gave evidence of a good and polite education, more especially my father's favourite Guinnifred.

I imagine, said my father, casting his eye around, that some of our sisterhood are missing from the company. Yes sir, answered Guinnifred, three of them have eloped; your honour's bounty, with what they purloined, as I suppose, from their late master, will be sufficient to put them as they think, upon their own footing.

I wish them well, rejoined my father, wherever they go; and trust they have carried with them the pollutions of the whole flock. And now, my girls, I think it time to apprize you of what ye have to trust to. This house, with the apartments and furniture, are all for your accom-

accommodation; your table shall be daily and plentifully supplied; and whatever you earn or acquire, by your personal labour or ingenuity, shall be your own, to lay out or lay up at your pleasure. I neither require nor desire any service at your hands, save the service of yourselves by serving your God: but then it ought to be a free service, a service from the heart; it shall not be constrained; and, when any of you shall happen to be weary of well doing, ye are at liberty to depart from your God and your friends, whither soever your evil tendency may chance to direct you. I promise you, at the same time that she, who perseveres to the end of a year's probation, shall have a certificate of her behaviour from me and the worthy clergyman you saw with me awhile ago, which certificate will entitle you to any place or honest employment, of which ye are capable, throughout these kingdoms. Though I have mentioned a year's probation, I do not limit your abode here to any particular term; continue and welcome to the end of your lives; and if any of you shall receive proposals of marriage from an honest and industrious man, such as I or the reverend Mr. Ruxon shall approve, I will then

add

add from twenty to fifty, and from fifty to a hundred pounds, for your marriage portion, according to your respective merits, and the length of your residence in this place. For, henceforth, I take you, not only as my sisters, but as my own children, new-begotten and exceedingly precious to my soul.

I looked about and saw that, in the general, they were much affected. Miss Guinnifred whispered to some, and they again to those who sat next them; and, suddenly, all rose and gathered crowding and kneeling about my father, thanking, blessing, and praying for him, while some shed tears of grateful and unfeigned sensibility.

When they were once more seated, Mrs. Sullivan, said my father, I here recommend Miss Guinnifred to you, to be your assistant in superintending and managing your family. O, thank you, thank you sir, cried several of the women; we will gladly obey her, as our superior and our mistress, for indeed she is worthy.

Shortly after, Mr. Ruxon arrived and joined us. The sanctity of his aspect, and the respectableness of his grey locks, drew reverence and attention still as night — Well sir, cried my father, with an anxious and enquiring look, in what condition have you left the wretched Dundas ? — Very weak in body, sir, exceeding ill indeed ; but, with respect to his soul, full of hopeful horrors and gnawing remorse. On entering his chamber and approaching his bed, I observed that large drops of sweat had gathered on his brows, and that his limbs all shook with an involuntary motion that was nearly convulsive. As I took a chair beside him, he opened his eyes upon me, with a look that expressed, beyond the power of language, the astonishment and depth of despondence that was opened within him.

Mr. Dundas, said I, I am sorry to see your body so much indisposed ; but I am infinitely more grieved to understand, that your soul is sick even unto death eternal. Awake then from your long dream of the pleasures of sensuality, and of the permanence of a fleeting life, which as one catching at a shadow, you endeavour to
grasp

grasp in vain. Alas, you are at the point of launching out upon a voyage, the most fearful and most important that men or angels can conceive ; and yet you enquire nothing concerning the course you are to steer, or the country to which you are bound, neither concerning the reception you are likely to meet there, or the commodities that may be of value in such strange and distant regions. In a few days, perhaps in a very few hours, the world and the flesh, with all your trusts and dependencies, and every carnal organ of your former delights, will be sapped and stricken from under you, as the base of a tumbling tower, when undermined by the floods, or suddenly blasted by powder.

Ah ! he cried, and endeavoured to strengthen himself, and cast a ghastly glance upon me ; had you come the messenger of any hope, however distant in the ages of futurity, you would have been welcome indeed. But I am all turned into one eye ; and that eye is nothing but a shrinking and fearful looking out for judgment !—O, the vision of last night ! It is still present to me ; and I still call for the mountains

tains to cover me, and the rocks to fall upon me.

While I lay last night, ruminating on the death of my comrade in iniquity, I fell into a sound and exceeding deep sleep ; when my ears, as I thought, were suddenly assailed by the alarming clangor of trumpets, from all points of the compass.

I looked up and beheld the clouds, black and pregnant with thunders, gathering quick from all quarters, and impending over my head. While I crouched and shrunk inward, the clouds instantly divided and left a chasm in the centre, through which the sun broke as in his meridian brightness. Again, a voice, that shook the universe, was heard throughout. The sun vanished from his place, and was no where to be found ; and utter darkness fell upon all the scenes in nature.

While my soul, also, darkened within me, a strange light dawned from afar, and increasing as it came onward, promised shortly to exceed the light of the great luminary so lately extinguished.

caught and clung to the hem thereof, as the only stay that they had throughout the universe. And, far below them again, millions appeared to catch and suspend by scarcely perceptible threads, that were let down on all sides from the saving power of the person of the manifold REDEEMER.

I, also, wished for a thread, however slender, to be thrown forth; but felt that my hand was withered, and had not strength to reach at it. I stood alone, as I thought, the only convict upon earth! At length, adventuring a short glance at the face of the judge, I perceived that his eye was as singularly and as constantly fixed upon me, as though no other creature, in the whole world of creatures, had attracted his regard.

I then shuddered, and endeavoured to gather myself into nothing from the All-seeing eye. But, in the instant, I perceived that the earth quaked and was convulsed beneath me; and suddenly dropping into a bottomless gulph, I also fell, as I deemed, from space, from duration, and all possible society, and, giving a
frightful

frightful roar, I awoke to despair and inexpressible horror.

But madam, (continued miss GRENVILLE) I have quite tired your ladyship: and truly, for the present, I have little more to say; for, within the two following days, we took a cordial farewell of Mr. Sternhold's family, doctor Ruxon, and the fair Guinnifred; and leaving old Dundas happily settled with his son-in-law, we set out, well pleased, on our return to London. O, you are wearied, you are sadly wearied, I know, with my prattle; but the scenes that I have recited were deeply interesting to me at the time that they passed, and so came, of themselves, on my memory, and from my tongue. A good evening to you madam,—to-morrow, or the day following, or at any other time, I will return, and proceed, if it is your pleasure, in my insipid narrative.

Not so, my JULIET, cried lady CRANFIELD; your story is sweetly affecting as well as instructive; and my soul accompanied you through the whole with equal attention and delight. Your description also of the great and final day is
striking

striking and sublime ; and is, I am confident, almost strictly representative of the scene that will be exhibited, when weakness shall be raised in power, and death swallowed up of victory. But, my dear, you must not think of breaking from me so soon as you propose. My lord will not be at home for some days to come. In the mean time, in my JULIET I shall have the world to myself. I will immediately dispatch a note to your parents, to inform them that you are my prisoner for this day or two at least.

After a race or two in the gardens, and a short evening's collation, the COUNTESS conducted her fair friend to her bed-chamber ; and having barred out all intrusion, miss GRENVILLE resumed.

Are you not of my opinion, madam, that our spirits have a sort of internal organs, whereby they perceive, and feel, and taste, and relish, and enjoy, in a manner quite superior to and incomparably more delightful than the sensitive gratifications of flesh and blood ? For my own part, I avow that, in the commerce of kindred hearts, ,

hearts, in the sweets of kindly offices, and in the bringing about uncommon and happy events, where Providence has evidently operated and interfered for the relief or display of virtue, and for the unfolding and exercise of the divinely humane affections ; in such matters, I say, I have felt more real pleasure, more bliss in a single day, than all the organs of my corporeity could supply me with in a century.

Let me think a little, JULIET,——It must certainly be, as you say. For those internal organs, that you have mentioned, are infinitely more susceptible of pain as well as pleasure than the organs of our frail and dissoluble machinery can possibly be : it is, therefore, that none have ever put themselves to death, to get shut of the stone or gout, or any other bodily anguish ; but the anguish of “ a wounded spirit who can “ bear ?”

Well madam, said miss GRENVILLE, I will then give you the history of a little event, wherein I had the happiness to be a party, and from which I derived inexpressible pleasure.

Long

Long after our return from our adventures at Epfom, I took an airing to Highgate, attended by two fervants well armed and on horfeback. I there called in on fome families of pensioners that we had in the town, and laft of all on a poor but very worthy widow, who bore an excellent character, and who decently fed, clothed and reared her four fatherlefs children, without any other means than my father's yearly allowance, and the fruits of her own induftry.

This widow had been my favourite, above all our pensioners ; and I had given her, from time to time, gowns and linen, and pieces of money, to help toward the fuffenance of her orphan charges.

I found her fitting up in her bed, with a fickly and difconfolate look. Mrs. Turney faid I, taking a chair befide her, I am forry, heartily forry to fee you indisposed. O, my heavenly miftrefs, ſhe cried, and preſſed my hand to her lips, I feel that you are forry for me. Yes yes, I know, were your will to bear rule, there would not be a fore limb or ſad heart in the world. But, alas, I have a diſtemper upon me that no
doctor

doctor can cure ! Here, here it lies ! she cried, pointing and putting her hand repeatedly to her breast. Ah, my God defend you, my precious lady, from ever being affected with the like malady ; but your innocence and virtue will always preserve you from it. Do you know, miss, of any cure for a troubled conscience ? Yes, I answered ; the troubling of the conscience is the most necessary and best preparative toward a cure ; it is, as when an angel descended and troubled the waters of Bethesda, and left a spirit and power of healing therein.

O, my darling, she exclaimed, and her eye brightened upon me, thou art the angel of healing, whosoever the angel of troubling may be ! I will then open to my young physician the very bottom of my wound ; and, if you can pour any comfort or balm therein, I will not cease to bless and bless you, for ever and for ever.

About a fortnight ago, I was sitting in yonder chair, something affected with hysterics, and very low spirited ; when my unnatural usage of my eldest babe suddenly rushed upon my mind, in a manner more forcible than it had
ever

ever done before. Ah, my child, said I in my soul, to have strangled, to have murdered you, had been less brutal ! Where are you, what is become of you, are you living or dead ! I would give the world to know what is become of you, my child ! In that very instant, some dæmon or disturbing spirit whispered into my ear, as plain as a speaking trumpet, “ Your daughter is still alive ; but she is a strumpet, “ and now in the common stews.”—This intelligence struck to my heart, and I directly fainted away.

On recovering my senses, my remorse and compunction grew daily stronger and stronger, and became in my bosom as the worm that dieth not, till the anguish of my mind reduced me to the state in which you find me. But, madam, to disclose to you the whole of my guilt, as also to prevent my most respected lady from having a worse opinion of me than I may happen to deserve, I ought to have began my story something earlier.

I was born near Chatham, the daughter of an humble curate, who had no worldly substance,
save

save a few old books, and a stipend of thirty pounds a year. But he laboured his little garden and little field with his own hands, and thereby, with the milk of a couple of cows, kept himself and my dear mother, and three children from want.

I was his eldest offspring, and, though he loved us all tenderly, yet he prided in me alone; for I was the child of his care and assiduity, and he daily instructed me in such articles of learning as suited my sex, so that, at the age of fifteen, I was accounted the best scholar within three parishes.

On a pleasant summer evening, as I walked along the fields, with a little brother in my hand, I was overtaken and accosted by an exceeding pretty youth, who was just come off a West-India voyage. Miss, said he, and blushed and hesitated, while he looked earnestly in my face; I— I believe this is your hussif, which I found on the way you came. I also blushed and thanked him, with a curtsy as low, and a look as gracious as possible. We then walked on together for some

time, without a word on either part, but now and then stealing a side glance at each other.

At length he began, in faltering accents, and told me he was a stranger in the country, and looked upon that as the greatest of all misfortunes, as it had hindered him of the advantage of being acquainted with me. After this opening, we conversed with greater ease; and I thought I felt a secret thread that invisibly drew our two hearts to each other.

He then informed me that he was youngest son of a decent family near Chester, and had run away from school, at thirteen years old, before he had finished his course in Latin: that, getting in company with a parcel of tars, they had wheedled him on shipboard; and, as he wished to see strange countries, and strange sights, he was easily prevailed upon to take a sea-faring life: that God, however, had prospered his ways: that this was his second trip to and from the West-India islands; and that he was come home vastly rich. So saying, he took a large purse from his side pocket, and pulling out a handful of gold, to the amount as I suppose of about

about forty guineas, he made a display of them before my eyes. I looked astonished no doubt, for I had never seen so much money in one heap before, and I beheld it as an inexhaustible fund of treasure.

• He then offered me a share, or the whole if I would honour him with the acceptance ; but I told him, that I never had, nor ever would receive any favours from young men. Will you give me leave then, miss, to wait on you home ? If you please, I will go and demand you of your parents in marriage. No, I cried, quite frightened, I should die of shame, were it hinted to father or mother, that ever I should want or wish for a husband. What is then to be done, said he dolefully, would you kill me outright ? if I do not see you again, I shall have no use for eyes. And, said I in myself, if I see you no more, I shall never desire to be seen of any.

I now judged it time to be on my return homeward ; but, spying a rent in one of the checkered stockings of my lover, which he had got in passing a hedge, I told him I would mend

it if he would sit down a little ; and that this was the least tribute I could pay him for the recovery of my huff. He complied, with new pleasure spreading over his sweet countenance ; and, while I kneeled to repair the breach, I cast up a short lock and perceived my huff in his hand, and he kissing it with as much eagerness as though it had been myself. I seemed, however, to take no notice ; but these little endearing incidents fastened so deep in my memory, and on the chords of my heart, as not likely to be removed for a very long time to come.

As soon as I had finished my work, O, he cried, I will sooner part with this leg, than ever part with this precious stocking again. I pretended to laugh ; but my heart was very sad, for the time of our parting was now at hand : so I rose and told him that I must positively bid him adieu. He again pressed to accompany me. I said it could not be ; but, pointing to our house, I intimated where I lived, and farther promised that if to-morrow's evening should prove fair, he might happen to find me in the same field.

So I curtsied, and bid him good night ; and, bowing in silent and deep dejection, he instantly turned from me ; when, casting a backward look at him, I perceived that he held his handkerchief to his eyes. I could then no longer refrain, but seizing the hand of my brother, I hurried him on as fast as his little heels could keep pace ; and, drawing near home, I stopped a while to dry my eyes, and went in, the most altered creature, sure, that ever was for so short a time.

I neither slept nor waked, as I may say, for the whole night. It was all a kind of drowsing delirium, of pleasing recollection, but painful looking out for that which was to come.

The three following days were wet and stormy. The fourth evening was fine ; but visitors came whom I was compelled to entertain, while my heart was secretly wrung, in the feeling of what my lover must then have endured, and I wished our neighbourly intruders at a thousand miles distance.

The next morning, at breakfast, I thought that my father looked upon me with an eye of distance and disgust; but, as he did not say that I had given him any offence, I suffered the matter to pass over in silence. I was deeply affected, however, by the coldness of his regard, and walked into the next field to give vent to my concern.

I had not gone far, my tears dropping as I went along, when I heard the voice of mourning from the far side of the hedge. The sound of lamentation was of kin to my soul, and stepping softly, and peeping through, I perceived my lover wringing his hands and weeping, as if his heart would burst in sunder. All alarmed, and half-distracted, I flew round to him, and, seeing me, he sprang up and endeavoured to hide his emotion.

What is the matter, said I? what ails my young friend? why are you so sorely afflicted? O miss, he cried, I am lost, lost and undone for ever, past hope of remedy! I was with your father this morning, and begged his consent to marry you. I kneeled to him, prayed to him, offered.

offered him all my treasure, with all that ever I should acquire hereafter; but alas, he rejected all my offers, and all my petitions. I will not deceive you my dearest miss: he told me that you were the comfort and stay of his old age; that the sight of you in a morning was pleasanter to his eyes than the rising of the sun; and that he would not give you to the best soldier or sailor that ever moved upon land or water, who might carry you from him he knew not where, or leave you upon the parish to die of a broken heart. So, miss, I have told you the honest truth, and you may do as you please; all I know is, that you or death will have me, and that very speedily.

What is your name, sir, said I? Felix Turney, madam. Then, my dear Felix, you must not, you shall not die, though I were to give my own life for the saving of yours. Be sure to meet me on this spot by dawn of day to-morrow; in the mean time, I will resolve, as well as I may, on what is to be done.

I thought he would have died of joy on the spot. He caught and clung to my feet; but I broke

broke away from him, for my heart worked sorely and was very heavy.

All that day and that night, my thoughts and inclinations were divided, and at war one against the other. I remonstrated, to my soul, on the duty that I owed to those who brought me into being ; on their care and tenderness toward me ; and, above all, on the affliction which my elopement would cause them, and which might bring their aged heads with sorrow to the grave.

On the other hand, imagination represented my Felix all pale and breathless before me ; I seemed to myself to sicken and die away at the sight ; and, in him I felt that all future joy and possible consolation were shut out from me for ever. But, again, I cried to myself, shall I thrust a dagger into the old and loving heart of my father ? No ; die rather, die thou thyself, ungrateful and unworthy girl ! And thus I continued, in a mortal conflict with myself, till near morning.

As the time then approached in which I must, of necessity, either accompany my lover, or de-
fire

fire him to depart without me, I found the latter to be impossible ; for he towed my heart after him as irresistibly as a boat when loosed from its stay, is carried down the stream ; and so, casting my cares and all consequences behind me, I determined to go with him, since I could not live without him.

I did not dare to reflect farther. We met, hurried into the town, were married, and that day set out for London. On the road, my young husband was all fondness, all transport ; and, indeed, from the day of our marriage to the day of our first parting, had I been made of a single diamond, he could not have prized me higher or have been choicer of me : but alas, my own remembrance was a heavy draw-back upon the happiness that I should otherwise have enjoyed !

You certainly judge with me, madam, that I deserved all that I suffered in consequence of my misbehaviour. I ought to have opposed the first impulse of my passion ; I was much too precipitate in my inclinations for a man, of whom I knew little or nothing ; and, what I owed to the kindest and tenderest of parents, should have

have stifled those inclinations, however painful the struggle, as soon as I found that they were repugnant to my duty. But the first sensations of love were so new and pleasant to me, that I gave it arguments and arms against myself, till it was quite out of my power to be willing to oppose it. This I say, however, as a confession, and by no means as an extenuation of my fault.

My Felix, with his good will, would speedily have lavished the whole of what he called his vast riches upon me. For sailors, in the general, know little of the use or value of money; and are surely the worst arithmeticians in the world, for calculating how long or how short it may last. But, happily, he had entrusted his purse to my keeping, and my lamented father had taught me to be quite expert at accounts.

So I took cheap lodgings for us up three pair of stairs, and catered as frugally as any husband could be brought to allow of, always chusing the worst bit and poorest sup for myself, in part of penance for my offences against my parents: for the passages of my childhood would often occur to my mind, the fields, scenes, and companions

visions of my playful and happy innocence, with the instructions, caresses, and fond looks of my tender father ; and I would get me apart and weep, till I washed my apron with tears. I took care, however, to keep all my griefs to myself ; and, on the appearance of my Felix, always put on the most chearful countenance I could possibly assume.

Thus we lived for seven months, when, with all my economy, the better half of my husband's great purse was exhausted ; and, to add to the pain and bitterness of forecast, I began to suspect that I was with child. This, however, I did not dare to hint to him, neither to remind him of the low state of our stock, lest it should tempt him to forsake me in my perilous condition, and go once more to sea, in order to replenish. I therefore bore up under my many depressions of spirit, till three months more were nearly elapsed, and scarce ten guineas of our whole fortune remained.

As his love accustomed him to spend most of his time in my company, I grew particularly uneasy at his staying out a whole day. Not a morsel

morsel of dinner or supper passed my lips; and I sat, till midnight, in the cold, weeping and ruminating, by turns, over a half smothered fire; scarce daring to look up to my God for relief; much less did I presume to demand of his providence, how I deserved to be made so exceedingly miserable?

At length the fire went out, and I threw myself on the bed, with the coverlet over me, endeavouring to stupify a part of my distress, by dozing a little. But, all my attempts were fruitless; my Felix rose to my imagination in a frightful succession of horrible representations; now in the gripe of bailiffs; now in the hands of robbers and murderers; and now seized upon by a press-gang, and hurried away to stormy seas and distant regions, from whence he was never, never more to return.

Day at last appeared, and day, after many a doleful day, appeared, without any sight or tidings, and now even without any expectations of my Felix. O, cried I to myself, well did my dear father prophecy, that soldiers and sailors leave
their

their beloved, and those of whom they are beloved, to perish.

My transgression, thereupon, returned with double weight upon my mind. O, my dear young lady! if, when one does a fault, one was to have done with it, it were something, it were a matter that might be born; but, to be always renewing it in recollection and remorse, to be constantly haunted with it, as a spectre at midnight, opening the curtains and glaring in on the eye of the conscience; it is terrible indeed! Ah, were others to be afflicted or affected with compunctions like mine, they would shudder at the thought of any future transgression, more than at the coming of pestilence or sudden death! But, they will not shudder, my lady, for I did not prove an example of sufficient warning to them; and my first fault was speedily succeeded by a second, still more unnatural and more grating to my soul.

Seeing no likelihood of my husband's return, I discharged our lodgings, and took a little room in the garret, where, my time being hastened by grief and reflection, after long and anguish-

ing travail I was delivered of a weakly daughter. But the costs of child-birth, in fees to midwife, doctor, and so forth, reduced my guineas to shillings ; and, by the time I had recovered so as to be able to get abroad, not a penny was left.

O madam, how pointed and bitter is the sense of want in such a state ! The wealthy have no knowledge of it ; the hard-hearted no feeling for it ; and even the charitable relieve it, more from the bounty of their own temper, than a sense of the distress. My soul sunk in utter abjection, even a depth below the grave in which my body was to lie. I looked on death as my only asylum, and the tempter strongly prompted me to administer the remedy with my own hand ; but Grace whispered me to bear under my afflictions with patience, as a penance and expiation that my offences enjoined ; and nature also urged me to prolong life for the preservation of my infant, though I saw nothing but misery in store or prospect for her.

I therefore earnestly prayed for strength from above, to resist the tempter ; I removed all instruments

fruments of death from about me ; and I carefully avoided all ponds and deep ditches, lest I should be suddenly prompted to cast myself in.

Mean time I took my babe in my arms, and going along the streets, with a voice scarce audible, but a very petitioning face I believe, I begged wherewithal to keep us from famishing. But people were so engrossed by their own concerns, or I so unskilled in my new occupation, that I could not procure sufficient nourishment to supply my child with breast-milk : so, seeing her daily weaken and decline apace, I disposed of her into hands that I trusted, at the time, would provide better for her ; and it was not till long after, that my conscience flew in my face on that score.

Being furnished with some shillings, and none but myself to take care of, I conceived a strong propensity for revisiting the place of my nativity, and seeing if my parents were yet alive ; not with any intention of revealing myself to them,

or

on craving any thing from them, but merely to indulge the longing that fell upon my heart.

I accordingly set out, and, after several days of wearisome travel, arrived, on a Sunday morning, within sight of the small church where my father used to officiate.

I sighed and dropt a tear ; and, moving slowly forward, I perceived that the parishioners were gathering, and began to enter the place of worship. I still advanced, my eyes eagerly expecting when the beloved objects they were in search of should appear. At length and last of all came my reverend father and mother, with their two sons in their train. God bless you, my precious parents, I inwardly cried ! God bless you, my little brothers ; and make you a comfort and recompence to our common father and mother, for all the evils and anguish their wretched daughter has brought upon them !

As soon as they had got in, and that the church door was closed, and all in silence about me, I knecled down on the path that led

to

to the house of prayer; and, giving way to the passion with which my bosom was bursting, I wet the ground with my tears, and pressed my lips to the earth on which my father had trodden.

When my emotions were, in a measure, abated, I rose and turned toward the house that was the seat of my joyous days. I moved here and there, thief like, bringing every place and corner and circumstance to memory. At length I adventured sidelong toward the door, and saw an elderly woman come forth; but she had been a new comer, she was not of my old acquaintance. Mistress, said I earnestly, will you give a hungry creature an alms? She looked at me, and her eye assented; and going in without a word, she brought me forth a vessel of milk and a large slice of bread. I drank heartily of the milk, for grief had made me thirsty; but my heart was too full to think of eating, so I put the bread in my pocket, purposing to relish future meals, with the morsels gleaned from the field of my native patrimony.

The good woman then eyed me pitifully. I believe you are tired, poor young thing, said she, I believe you are tired ; will you come in and rest yourself ? I accepted her invitation, and following her, I sat down in the chimney corner. But, seeing my father's old hat and wig on the dresser, I could not refrain, but began to weep afresh. Bless me, cried the kind creature, it is a sad thing to see one so young and so pretty as you are, take so much to heart. Pray, what is it that grieves you ? are you in great want ? I would do any thing to comfort you that I could.

So saying, she went to her own little apartment, and bringing forth a crown piece, that was wrapt in a rag, she took it out and presented it to me ; I thanked her and blessed her, but positively refused to accept it.

Just then an old spaniel called Fetch, who had been my friend and acquaintance almost from my cradle, came with solemn steps from the parlour, and spying a stranger began to grumble ; but approaching nearer to me he wagged his tail, and his whole body appeared
in

in a pleased agitation. He then came up and licked my hands and my feet, and kept a wonderful coil about me, and whined and moaned as though he lamented my condition. Bless me, cried the good woman, I believe in my heart the creature knows you. All dogs, said I, are fond of me; they never bite nor bark at me, but fawn upon me. That is a sign, said she, that you are very good natured.

I was then strongly tempted to discover myself to this kind soul; and to tell her, in confidence, that I would go and wait a piece off, till she should try, whether my parents were inclined to send after me or not. Perhaps, said I within myself, my father may prove like the gracious father in the gospel, who gladly saw his returning prodigal, when yet afar off, and ran and met, and kissed, and embraced, and wept upon him. But no, said I again; thy father, alas, has no fattened calf, no plentiful board for sons, and less for servants. Begone then, begone, nor stay, unmeriting as thou art, to share and lessen the bread of his better deserving children; neither daily to offer to the eyes of thy parents
a face

a face that is justly the object of their indignation. Should they even receive and treat thee graciously, what would it avail, save to sting thine own heart and conscience with the deeper reproaches ?

So I arose, and told my kind friend that I must take my leave of her ; and I took her by the hand and squeezed it, and kissed and blessed her, and dropt a tear ; and I perceived that her own eyes were also full at parting.

I then turned away, slow and sad ; and the farther and farther I went, I grew sadder and sadder, still turning and stopping, every minute, to take a long leave of the seat of my parentage, till the last glimpse of the beloved place disappeared from my sight.

On my arrival at London, I again took possession of my room in the garret ; and, the day following, I began to ruminate how I might earn a little honest bread by needle-work or otherwise. Observing a chandler's shop on the ground floor over the way, I stepped and found it to be the property of an orderly looking widow. Good
mistress,

mistress, said I, I am a poor unhappy girl, who would willingly eat the bread of virtue and diligence; pray have you any employment for me, in which I might serve you without being a burthen upon you? my good will, I promise you, shall go a great way in making amends for any want of capacity. She then asked me if I could handle a needle? Indifferently, I answered; whereupon she put the making of a shift, cut out from new linnen, with needles and thread into my hand. I instantly sat down to my work, with glistening hope and expectation; while my employer stood over me with attentive observation, and now and then looked pleased and smilingly into my face. On finding that I was quite neat and expert at the business, she twitched the work away from me; Come, said she, never heed it now; you must stay and dine with me, and, in the afternoon, we will talk farther of matters.

After dinner she sat and chatted with me awhile, without entering upon the subject which to me was most important. A few customers then dropping in, one after another, asking my pardon, she rose and served them in turns. Soon
after,

after, the whole shop and floor began to be crowded; and I found myself distressed on seeing the confusion and difficulty she was under, in making the several entries for those who had paid, and those who had gone upon credit. Mistress, said I, if you will permit, I will take upon myself some part of your trouble. I then seized on a sheet of paper, and, applying to herself from time to time, entered the monies received on one side, and the debts to the shop on the other; and, before night, closed her business with great chearfulness and dispatch.

She then came and took me about the neck, and kissing my forehead, cried, My dear creature, you are as an angel sent to me from heaven, if we can but agree. I will give you your board clear, and eight pounds yearly; and will farther encrease your wages, if our customers shall happen to multiply. I know your character, it is very good, I have seen you often over the way. If I die while you are with me, you shall be the better for me. I flatter myself that you will prove a sweet companion, as well as a useful and faithful friend. In such a case I shall be happy, while you think it your convenience

venience to continue with me ; but, whenever you may find it your interest to depart, I shall grieve to be sure, but I will comfort myself with the thoughts that you are the better for my loss.

I lived two years and a half with this very kind mistress, whose name was Dampier. She had raised my wages, from time to time, till it amounted to twelve pounds, and I had saved upward of twenty, which I purposed shortly to take to my father's and divide between my two brothers toward putting them out apprentices ; when, one day, as I was reaching to a shelf for something, I suddenly found myself in the arms of a man.

I screamed, and made a violent effort to get from him ; and giving him a push at the same time, he fell backward over a chair, and throwing his hand behind him to save himself, he dislocated his right shoulder.

He rose slow and painfully, and looking resentfully at me, Ah Letty, said he, is this the reception you give your Felix, on his first visit
to

to you after so long an absence? Indeed you have hurt me sadly; I fear my bone is broken.—Felix, Felix! I exclaimed, and looked eagerly at him; I believe you must be my very Felix indeed!

I was then seized with such a trembling and faintness, that I was obliged to sit down; but the agitation I was under, between my joy to see him, and my grief for having hurt him, kept my spirits afloat and saved me from swooning.

Mrs. Dampier was greatly distressed between us; and, ringing for the maid, sent her hastily for a surgeon. In the mean time she had placed my husband in a chair, for he shewed by his countenance that he was in great anguish.

When the surgeon came, he found himself under the necessity of ripping my husband's fine coat, in order to come at his shoulder. Then, with the help of a porter, he reduced the bone to its socket, and, having applied the bandages, he fitted a sling for the support of his arm.

As

As a fever was apprehended, he was enjoined not to remove for the present; so we accommodated him with a room that stood backward from that wherein my mistress and I lay; and, in less than a fortnight, his youth and a healthful habit of body, nearly restored him to the perfect use of his arm.

He then went to our former lodgings, and took the whole third floor at thirteen pounds yearly; for I wished to be near my good old mistress, that I might occasionally assist her, and it grieved me to think of being separated from her.

When I came to enquire into the adventures of my Felix, he told me that he had been pressed, and forcibly carried on board the Caroline man of war, without being allowed leisure or materials for writing; and that his learning, and particularly his fine hand and knowledge of accounts, had recommended him to the purser, who appointed him his clerk, and allowed him moreover several lucrative perquisites; so that near two hundred guineas were now due to

him on the books, beside about fifty of ready cash which he had in his pocket. But, my Letty, continued he, I am not now as I was in my boyish days of my folly, when I dreamed there was no getting to the bottom of a short purse. As I wish never more to be parted from you, my darling we must manage with the better frugality, in order to keep together; for, were the ocean to be drawn from, without receiving any supply, it would at last be scooped to the bottom. So I will get me into some way that will afford us a daily penny, without our breaking in upon our principal. But, you are a great rogue, Letty, for pretending not to know me when I took you in my arms, and making believe that you would have treated strangers with the same severity that you used your Felix.

I laughed; and in a day or two, he went and received his pay, and bought a pleasure-boat of six oars with a handsome awning, which turned out to good profit by plying up and down the Thames, particularly in the summer season. And this, with what I made, by my daily attendance on Mrs. Dampier, defrayed the whole of our expences, and added something to our principal at the year's end. How-

However, our family now began to multiply apace ; and, in something more than four years after the return of my husband, I was delivered of the four sons you have seen sporting about you. So that, what with christenings and nursings, my inability to attend the shop of my good old mistress as usual, and the natural prodigality of the disposition of my Felix, which would break out, at times, in spite of his resolutions of prudence and reserve, our principal fund was at length considerably sunk.

My husband now began to grow thoughtful, and his chearfulness constrained. One evening he came home more dejected than ordinary. He placed himself over against me, looked mournfully at me, and sat silent for some time. What is the matter, Felix, said I, has any thing happened amiss ? Nothing new, my love ; but we must part again, my Letty, we must part for a time ; and that is daggers and death to my heart. If a man begets children, it is his duty as a man and a christian, to provide for them ; but God, who opens and shuts at pleasure, has not deigned, at this season, to succeed my endeavours, so I found myself necessitated to go farther afield ;

field ; but was loth to grieve you, till the hour of my departure was come. I have made sale of my boat and other matters ; and find that, on the upshot, we have only a hundred and fifty pounds in the world : so I have taken on with the Swan East-Indiaman, in a very advantageous birth. The fifty pounds I take along with myself for a venture ; the hundred I leave with you, as a sorry subsistence for yourself and our darling babes, till I can do better for you all. If we ever meet again, my Letty, you will find me rich on earth, or happy in heaven ; for, as a sinner, I trust in my title to Redemption and Grace.

I answered not ; I was drowned in tears, and nearly suffocated with sobs. I went and threw myself on the bed, and he came and laid himself beside me ; and, folding each other in a strait embrace, we wept together till the night was far advanced. At length, I dropt asleep under the pressure of my griefs ; and he tenderly, as I found, covered me up close and warm : but, when I awoke in the morning, no Felix was to be found.

I will

I will not afflict you, my precious mistress, with the recital of my lamentations ; they were all silent however, no wailing was heard. When my duty and attention to the interest of my fatherless children had recalled me to the world, I joined my stock in partnership with my old friend and mistress, and I and my infants crowded into her back apartments.

Toward the latter end of the year, my partner sickened and died. I thought myself then forsaken of the last friend I had upon earth ; and I remained long inconsolable, though she left me, in cash and joint effects, to the value of three hundred and thirty pounds.

I now wished ardently for the presence of my Felix ; and, had I then been blessed with his advice and protection, we must have prospered greatly, as I had a flow of custom. But, lone as I was, I neither knew how to realize my money, nor in what stocks to lodge it, nor on what securities to put it out to use ; for I avoided the acquaintance of men, and I looked on women as ignorant or dangerous confidants.

One night, I was started out of my sleep by a grating noise at my shop window. I listened with a panting heart, and thought I heard the great bar wrenching away from its hinges. I then made no question but that I, and my children, and servant maid, should all be murdered; and I would gladly have given all I was worth for the ransom of our lives. I roused my woman in a hurry, and we double locked the door, and with joint force heaved and set a weighty desk against it; and again we barricaded the desk with tables, chairs, and every impediment we could lay our hands on.

Soon after, I heard my till and the locks of my chests tearing open; and the noise they made was so great and daring, that the watch must have been in confederacy with the robbers. Several times they knocked at our door, and heaved strongly against it; while my maid and I endeavoured to keep the desk firm, not venturing so much as to breathe with freedom.

When all was silent for a season, and that the rogues, as I suppose, had cleared the whole shop of every thing that was of value, I went again
to

to bed; and calling the maid to me, we lay close and quaking together, till the light came in at the window.

We then got up and dressed, and removed the bars from our door, and entering the shop, surveyed the wanton havock the thieves had made, beside carrying off all my effects that could not have been less than some tons in weight. Providentially, however, they had spared my books of account, that lay concealed in a corner behind the counter: so I tried to lift up my spirit, and, with Job, I blessed the name who giveth and taketh away; but my heart was still heavy.

I then went and wakened my children, and, while I was dressing them, I let fall tears of joy and tears of grief upon them; for I joyed to see them safe from so great a peril, but mourned for the loss my poor things had sustained.

The world was now to begin again, but with what means was the question. So I sighed, and wished myself and my little ones
safe

safe lodged, where rust doth not corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal.

Though I did not take to my bed, my health was daily declining, and a languor and weight invaded and hung upon every limb. I was thereupon advised to remove to Hampstead, or Highgate, for the benefit of air. I set my furniture to sale; discharged my floor; and found that I was full twenty pounds in cash, beside about as much more in responsible book debts: whereupon I removed to Highgate, and rented the little hamlet, where you and your generous father first found me, madam.

But, Mrs. Turney, said I, you tell me nothing farther concerning your daughter, whom you mentioned in the foregoing part of your history. Ah miss, she replied, I was loth to come to that article, as it is by far the most shameful part of my story. In a few days after my return from my father's, I went and inquired about her, at the place where I left her, without taking any notice of the relation I bore to her; and there I was informed that she was thriving amain, that a nurse had been provided for her, and that she

was

was treated with all possible humanity and tenderness ; and so, not having the means to take equal care of her, also fearing to be suspected, I inquired after her no more till the return of my husband. I then opened to him the whole truth, and we went together to the house, in order to reclaim her. But alas, my dear mistress, we found no one, therein, who could tell us any thing of her, or even concerning the family that had lately removed from it.

But, pray, Mrs. Turney, be open to me also ; where, and in what manner, was it that you disposed of your child ?—I—I sold her—my lady.—Sold her ! good God, sold your child do you say ?—Pray, my mistress, be not so highly offended with me ; indeed I have sorely, very sorely repented of my fault.—It is not that, good Mrs. Turney, that makes me so inquisitive, Do now, tell me at once, where, and to whom did you sell her ?—In Hanover-square, madam, to the prettiest little miss I ever set my eyes on, who happened to be looking out of the ground-floor window, and said she wanted the child to put into her baby-house.—And how much did you get for her, my good friend ? Fourteen shillings

shillings and ten pence, madam, in silver and half-pence.—Then, Mrs. Turney, methinks, I shall be able to give you some little intilligence about your daughter; I myself was the purchaser.—You the purchaser! she cried, looking wildly at and about me.—Indeed I was; but you know I bought her very fairly and honestly, and so you must not think of taking her from me; O, exclaimed the grateful creature, and cast herself on her knees before me, Are we not all your purchase? Your property to be disposed of at your pleasure? Are you not, young as you are, the angel-mother of all my little ones? and so saying, she seized my hand and wept sobbingly upon it.—But, is she yet alive, madam? may I not see her, may I not have one look at my child?—You shall Mrs. Turney, you shall see her to-morrow.

Upon my word, cried lady CRANFIELD, and wiped her eyes, this is what I did not expect. I little dreamed of the wonders your baby-house was to produce. But your story, my JULIET, adds to truth all the graces and incidents of romance, when romance happens to coincide with nature and sentiment. Well, you brought the mother and daughter together, to be sure.

I did, madam, as you shall hear. On my return, Emmy was the first who came running to receive me, as her heart always sent her eyes on the look out after me.—You are welcome home, madam ; I hope you have had a pleasant airing.—Yes, Emmy, so pleasant, that I intend to take you the same airing to-morrow ; I am just come from visiting your mother, Emmy.—My mother, dear madam ! and she coloured all scarlet ; when again her colour went, and she tremblingly asked, but have I not a father too, my mistress ? —As I knew not her drift, I smiled, and replied, that a father, for aught I knew, might also be requisite in the case.—Ah madam, I mean that I should be well pleased to be the offspring of beggars, provided they were honest beggars ; but it hurts me sadly to think, that I may have been the child of guilt and licentiousness.—You are, my Emmy, the offspring of an honest and pious stock ; and your parents are the lawful parents of many more children. But, what made you suspect, my child, that you were misbegotten ?—Why, madam, Mrs. Gossipper, fir John Elliot's cook, came, some time since, on a visit to our cook Mrs. Grizeld. While they sat chatting in the kitchen, I passed through, unheeding

unheeding, to get something from the larder ; and my ears being better than I desire at times, I heard Mrs. Gossipper say, whisperingly, Methinks your beggar's bastard goes very fine, Mrs. Grizeld. Hush hush, said good Grizeld ! our young lady would be much offended if she heard what you say, I assure you ; and so would my good master and mistress too ; for they are all as fond of her, and as kind to her, as though she were of the family blood. So, I passed back again, with my face turned something aside from them, for fear they should perceive that my eyes were full.

In the evening, I told Mrs. Grizeld, that I had something to say to her, that concerned me very nearly ; and requested her to step with me to her bedchamber. There I threw my arms about her neck, and kissed and thanked her, and told her I had heard the kind things she had said of me ; and earnestly begged to hear all that she knew or had learned about me.

All I have learned, said she, is, that miss JULIET bought you of a poor woman at sir John's door, when she herself was little more
than

than a baby. But what signifies who were your parents, miss Emmy? Are we not all the daughters of Adam and Eve? And sure no one will deny but that they were lawfully married, since she was bone of his bone.

Notwithstanding all Mrs. Grizeld's kind and learned consolations, I lay awake and in tears the most of the night; and that, I suppose, sprung of pride; for, as the Apostle says, God has surely a right to appoint the vessels of his handy-work to honour or dishonour, even just as he pleases. But, pray madam, can you tell me, is my father living?—He is not, Emmy; it is many years since he took ship for the East Indies, and has never since been heard of. Your mother will tell you all about him and herself; a very sweet and affecting story, I promise you, Emmy. Soon after your father's departure, your mother came to good substance; but, being robbed in one night of several hundreds of pounds, she retired, with your four little brothers, to Highgate, where she became one of my father's worthy pensioners.

The next morning, by break of day, Emmy went, without my privity, on a very sweet errand, and drained her little purse in purchasing presents for her mother and younger brothers. For a sweet girl she is ; and is, in person and manners, the very picture of lowliness arrayed in gentility.

When we alighted at Highgate, I led Emmy in to her mother, saying, Mrs. Turney, this is your daughter ; Emmy, this is your good and respectable mother. I then instantly withdrew to a back garden, that I might not interrupt their caresses, or put any restraint on their mutual emotions ; though I would have given, at the same time, above twenty pieces to have been an invisible spectator of the pathetic scene.

After I had walked for some time, Emmy came, wiping her eyes, and requested me to step in. I followed her, but found she had been something too hasty ; for I perceived that her mother was still full, and unable to speak, though she tried at it several times. Emmy then went out, but quickly returned, followed by her little brothers, and one of the footmen, bearing a
large

large bundle.—What have you got there, Emily?
—I beg your pardon, madam, for encumbering
your carriage with my lumber; it contains some
clothes for my mother and my brothers here.—
Come, lay it down; produce, and let us see
your fancy.

She then opened, and took out the making of
a gown of green mantua silk for her mother, as
also a parcel of fine green cloth, with suitable
trimmings for all her brothers. But why, Emmy
said I, did you chuse all of one colour?—
That we might all, madam, be in the livery of
the dear mistress to whom we belong. But sister,
cried the eldest boy, are all these fine things for
us? Yes, my dear, and happily may ye wear
them!

Then all the little fellows sprung and capered
about her, and clung to her in turns, and reach-
ed up their arms at her. While she passionately
kissed and caressed them, one after the other, I
perceived that her bosom was agitated by that
sort of internal convulsions, which we feel when
we are strongly affected, and endeavour, at the
same time, to suppress the appearance of emo-
tion.

I have often heard it affirmed, that a number of little loves divides and dissipates the susceptibility of any great love ; as though love were to be numbered like coin ; or limited and portioned out, like lands, with bounds and mearings ; but here I had a demonstration of the absurdity of such an assertion. The greater the number of the objects of Emily's love, the stronger the flame kindled, as from so many coals brought together. For love is surely as fire ; the more it expands the more fuel it finds, and the more fervent and intense is the growing heat thereof.

You are in the right, my JULIET, exclaimed lady CRANFIELD ; love certainly encreases in proportion to the circle it makes, and the objects at which it reaches ; and it farther warms and acquires vigour by exercise and action. Nay, it forcibly occurs this instant to my soul, that love constituted those talents, which the Lord, on his departure, entrusted to his servants, desiring them to occupy till his return : and one increased his talent five fold ; and another ten fold ; but another buried his talent in the earth and dirt of this world, without increasing it or employing it in any one act of the charities that
are

are thereupon quoted ; such as ministering food to the hungry, and drink to the thirsty, and visiting the sick and the prisoner, and clothing the naked, and ministering relief to the distressed, and comfort to the afflicted.

I have remarked, my darling, that the large sphere of your benevolence, and the extensive occupation in going about to do good, has naturally engaged your history in what they call low life. But, is it the less interesting and affecting, or less entertaining or instructing, on that account ? No, surely. People of the lower rank are free from those restraints, under which form and ceremony, with the biases and prejudice of education and fashion, lay the passions, propensities, and affections of the great. Their's is the field of nature : if unimbellished, it is also unspoiled by art ; and it is the field, in which no soul delights to wander.

Neither are the virtues or magnanimities of the lower class of people confined by their station, or straitened by their circumstances. A peasant may be informed with the spirit of a prince ; and he who gives a little, when he has

nothing more to give, may shew a more extensive and elevated bounty, than he who out of thousands dispenses his pounds.

They are not matters of magnitude, the ox, the elephant, or the whale, that engage the attention or art of the Almighty. He rather delights to be elaborate on the minutenesses and minims of nature ; to open his immensity, as it were, within a speck ; to lavish his skill and ornaments on insects and butterflies ; and to inform ants and bees with better sagacity and science, than the most laboured systems of human policy can exhibit. For the littleneesses of our God are great beyond conception ; and, while the universe cannot contain him, his wisdom and might, his goodness and glory, and the fulness of his infinity, are entire and displayed through every point of infinite space.

But, I interrupt you, my JULIET ; and that is my own loss. Proceed, my daughter, I beseech you ; proceed to ally me nearer to the villager and the beggar, and to open all the fountains of humanity within my soul.

Mis

Miss JULIET then resumed her tale—Ah, madam, cried Mrs. Turney, you have now restored me to the name by which I was baptized, and have turned the tears of my mourning into the tears of my joy.

But, Mrs. Turney, said I, did you hear nothing from or concerning your good husband since he left you?—Only once, madam. Some time after the robbery, when I had retreated, in my indigence, to the cottage wherein you found me, an officious neighbour of mine, in the zeal of her friendship, came hurrying and full laden with the very heaviest tidings with which she could have been freighted. Had she been less communicative, she might still have left me the happiness of hope. She shewed me a paragraph in one of the London papers, where the melancholy news was said just to have arrived, that the Swan India man had been cast away on the coast of Coromandel, and that the captain with all the crew had perished.

Struck to the heart, I sat awhile in mute astonishment, and then shamed my neighbour away with the sudden burst of my sorrows.

I now

I now sunk for the second time, below my own nothing; below the worms, who dive under the graves and the deepest deposits of mortality.

I then remembered where Naomi said, "Call me not Naomi, but call me Mara; for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me." At my baptism, said I, I was named Joy, and my husband was named Happy; but all our happiness is misery, and our joy desolation.

In the depth of my distress, and the wringings of my anguish, you came, the heavenly messenger of consolation and grace; and lifted me from the pit with the hand of your saving, and wiped the tears from my eyes, and filled all my little ones with food and gladness.

What would you think, my friend, said I, of my accompanying you and your family on a visit to your good old parents? The thought, this very minute, came into my head; and I would give forty pounds to be present at the interview. O madam, she cried, the truant step that I took must be still in his memory; it was a fault.

fault that I fear is past pardon.—This then shall be the ambassador of reconciliation and peace : here are the forty pounds I mentioned ; you shall present him with this, towards setting up his two sons in some honest employment ; and so saying, I put a bill for the money into her hand. How is it, she exclaimed, in the overflowings of her gratitude, that you should be a mint of wealth, as well as of bounty ; and pour yourself out, as you do, in blessings upon all about you, wherever you go ?——So great, my dearest madam, little matters appear, when they happen to be rare ; and so unwilling are the rich, to discharge their debts to the poor ! for wealth is as surely a debtor to want, as though bonds and parchments had passed between them in all the forms of law.

That day, I dined on a chop with Mrs. Turney ; and, on my return in the evening, told my parents, over tea, the history I have just recited to your ladyship.

JULIET, said my father, the pleasure I have received from the story of our favourite pensioner, brings me farther in her debt ; we must
do

do something more for so deserving a family. Indeed I rejoice, at heart, that you have found a mother for our Emily, whose virtues are worthy of so worthy a child. For I am more indebted to Emily, than you yet know, as ye shall hear.

Some time since, at the time that I sprained my foot by too precipitate a step from my carriage to the threshold, none of our people happened to be in waiting, save Emmy, whose eye has ever been attentive to my motions.

She gave me her arm, with a look of such distress, as made me think myself worse than I was; she then helped me into the parlour, till she seated me in an easy chair. She hastened for a cushion; and, having placed my foot upon it, she ran for spirits and the nervous ointment, and taking off my stocking, she began her operations, in a gentie kind of hurry. The ankle was already black, and much swelled and enflamed, which greatly alarmed the kind girl, and put her all in a tremor. However, she did her best to hide her concern, and continued to foment my foot, while I felt her tears dropping fast

fast and warm upon it: shall I confess that I felt them at my heart also. At length she rose with her head aside, and ran for some flannels, and swathing and wrapping the part up warm, she kept her face downward, all the while, lest I should see she had been weeping; but, hearing your coach drive to the door, she withdrew with precipitation.

And now, my ladies, it happens opportunely, as I think, that a small advowson, of about ninety pounds a year, is fallen into my gift; and, with your approbation, it shall help to clear accounts with our little Emmy. I desire to present it to her, that she may, in her own name, make a present of it to her grandfather: tell me JULIET, what is he called?—Ephraim Upright, sir: I never heard it till after dinner this day.—A good gospel name for a clergyman, cried my father; I doubt not but the man will answer to the meaning. Ring the bell and call for Emily.

Poor Emmy came in, all blushing and apprehensive that something amiss had happened, on
her

her part ; for she had not yet got the better of the flutter in which that day's adventure had put her.

Emmy, said my father, come near me, my child. Though I am generally in health, I have, from time to time, employed many physicians, and you are the only one among them to whom I never gave a fee ; and yet you gave me more ease and delight than all the medical tribe grouped together in a bundle. What then shall we do for you, my Emmy ?—Emmy was abashed and silent.—Your sister JULIET, here, tells me, that you have a reverend old grandfather, a man of worth, but of poverty that hangs heavy on his merits. Will you go and make him a present, in your own name, of a scrip of parchment, that shall put him in possession of ninety pounds a year ? I know it will delight your young heart to do so ; and it shall not deduct any thing from what we owe to yourself, in particular, my Emmy.

The girl looked astonished as one quite oppressed ; she sunk on her knees in silence, and, at length,

broke into tears without uttering a syllable. What is the matter, said my father; what does the little fool cry for? I did not mean to provoke your tears; they hurt me, my girl; pray go and compose yourself.—She rose and retired.

I am greatly mortified, my JULIET, continued my father, that I cannot accompany you on your expedition to Chatham; but I may gather in the harvest of that adventure, perhaps, more delightfully from your own dear lips. Exercise is good for your health, and the offices of beneficence are congenial and chearing to the spirit of my darling; and we can have no joy, save so far as we partake in the joys of our JULIET.

In about three weeks after, we set out. We lay at an inn within five miles of the place, and, at six in the morning, proceeded to finish our journey.

When we arrived within less than a mile of the abode of Mr. Upright, I left the chariot

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and

and servants, with Mrs. Turney, her children and a coach and four, and Emily and I adventured on foot to her grandfather's.

We entered without ceremony, and found the good old couple at breakfast over two porringers of new milk and a brown loaf. God bless you, and much good may it do you, my good sir and madam, said I; and so took a seat without being bidden. They stared at us awhile, and seemed something confused; for I believe they had not been accustomed to visits from gay strangers.

Will you permit us, sir, said I, to share in your repast, and to call for two porringers more; your loaf I see is sufficient. Deborah, thereupon, was instantly called; milk, hot from the cow, was placed on the table; and something, I knew not how, gave the milk and coarse bread a sweeter and higher relish than all the delicacies I had ever tasted in my life.

Mr. Upright, said I, I believe you look upon us as very bold, and perhaps unseasonable intruders,

ruders. Not at all, madam, said he politely ; I have often read of angels who have visited the saints ; I only wonder how they come to pay a visit to sinners. O, my dear sir, I cried, and caught his hand and kissed it ; I am a sinner, who come to be fainted by your example and instruction. But, pray, where are your two sons ? I wished to see them about you.—They are put out apprentices, madam : but your knowledge of my affairs, and kind concern about them, still persuade me that you must have come from an upper region ; in truth, your person and whole appearance confirm the opinion.

O sir, I replied, however unworthy and vile in myself, I trust indeed that I am the angel or messenger of happy tidings to you. Had you not once a daughter sir ?—I had, I had ; but she is dead, or worse than dead, these many, many years !—I think I am able to tell you something about her. Pray call your servant maid.—Mrs. Deborah, how long have you lived in this family ?—Above eleven years, madam. Do you remember any thing of a young beggar girl, who once came to your door ? I do, I do, madam ; I can never forget her ; she has often
haunted

haunted my dreams : truly, I took her, at the time, to be something extraordinary ; and my master has since told me that she was his own daughter.

Ah, cried the good man, I was unhappily engaged to dine with a neighbour that day. On my return, I sent several ways after her ; but she was gone, we knew not whither, too far for recalling ! When Deborah told us how our old dog had fawned upon her, and licked her hands and her feet, I knew it could be no other than the darling of my heart, the child of my vitals ; but she was a hard hearted and unnatural girl, not to give us one sight of her, even supposing she had been determined to depart.

O fir, said I, she had travelled from London, all the way on foot, and for no other purpose but to indulge herself with one sight of the habitation in which her beloved parents dwelt, and, if possible, to get a glimpse of their shadows as they passed unknowing before her.

I then told them of the transaction in the church yard ; and how their daughter had kissed
the

the dust whereon her parents had trodden, and washed it with the tears of her repentance and sorrow for having offended them. Whereupon they both wept plentifully, but the old gentleman exceeded.

O my child, he cried, as though she had been present, you were faulty indeed, but your penance has been too severe ! alas, I was far from wishing it should reduce you to beggary. Did you not know you were entitled to your portion of my loaf, and of my labours ? Why then did you not come and share them with us ? why did you not bring back my stray lamb to my arms, and to my bosom ? Tell me, madam, does she live ? may I look, once to behold her again, before I go hence and be no more seen ?

She lives, sir—you shall see her, you shall see her this very day ; and this young gentlewoman is her daughter, your own granddaughter, Mr. Upright, the eldest born of your child Letty, this whom you see before you.

Quick as a glimpse of lightning, Emmy was at his feet, clasping and reclasping the knees of
P 3 her

her reverend fire. God bless you, my lovely creature, whoever you be, he cried ! but pray rise and unfold ; I am all an astonishment : these wonders, if true, are too mighty for me !—He then raised her to his arms, and embracing her, said, Your swimming eyes tell me you are the child of my heart, whether you are the child of my bowels or not.

Emmy, thereupon, wiped her eye, and turning toward me said, There, sir, sits my lady and mistress ; and young as she looks, she is the mother of my mother, and of all her little ones ; ay, and the mother of my grandmother and grandfather too, as I shall shew. So saying, she put her hand to her bosom and took out a piece of parchment. Here, sir, she earnestly cried ; her noble father presents you, or, to say the truth, ordered me to make you a present, in my own name, of this writing, which entitles you to near a hundred pounds a year.

The old gentleman took it, and perused it, over and over, very readily, but with indiscrivable amazement. He was turned of sixty-three, but had not yet made use of spectacles ; and his
tempe-

temperance and exercise had preserved to him an active and florid constitution, insomuch that he scarce looked to be turned of fifty.

After revising it with long and deliberate consideration, he eyed me earnestly, and said, I will not suppose, madam, that your gracious father intended this his bounty as any matter of mischief toward me; and yet the mischief, I doubt, is very likely to ensue. This will set me above the necessity of daily labour with my own hands; and the want of exercise may consequently shorten my days. But, what is infinitely worse, this fortune, so utterly beyond my expectations, and even beyond my wishes, may in time insensibly steal me into indulgence, into vanity; and then, in soul, as well as in body, I shall be a fearful loser both here and hereafter. Wherefore, my dearest lady, if I had not children, and grandchildren too, as you tell me to provide for, I would reject and return your donation, with a “get thee behind me Satan!” not to the giver, but to the gift. For my heart venerates and affects the giver, with a gratitude and fervour, perhaps more than ought to be, almost near to adoration!

While

While he was speaking, the coach and four, with Mrs. Turney and her sons, drove up to the door. She came in, and with a pale and trembling haste, dropt precipitately on her knees before her father. His eyes instantly acknowledged the features once so dear. He let his arms fall about her. He wept and sobbed upon her without restraint. At length, looking to me, he said, You see, madam, that I am not ashamed to have it known, that a part of the love of our heavenly father informs the heart of an earthly father toward his children also.

She then moved to her mother, and being equally careffed, she rose and sat down with her handkerchief at her eyes. Mr. Upright then looked about, and, seeing the four lovely boys who stood, in a range, behind the chair of their mother, Who are these then, my daughter ; pray tell me who are these ?—They are the children, my honoured sir, whom God has been pleased to give me in the days of my disobedience, but also in the days of my penitence. Blessed be his name therefore, exclaimed the patriarch, since, with Isaiah, I may say, “ Break
“ forth into songs, thou barren, thou who wast
“ desolate

“ dofolate and dead unto me, for more are thy
 “ children than the children of fruitful mo-
 “ thers!” for I thought not to have feen thy
 face my daughter ; and yet I behold the bleffed
 faces of thy progeny. Come to my arms, my
 babes, come to my arms my offspring !

But, pray fir, where are my brothers ? faid
 Mrs. Turney. They are at their trade, my
 dear ; I bound them apprentice to a plough-
 carpenter, the occupation of that mafter, who
 came into the world to tear up and make fruit-
 ful the barren and fallow grounds.—Be pleafed
 then, fir, to prefent them with this as a token of
 my love ; it may affift toward fetting them up in
 their very honoured employment : fo faying,
 ſhe put the bill for forty pounds into his hand.

My God ! exclaimed the pious man, to what
 purpofe is anxiety or follicitude upon earth ? All
 our care and our coil can neither oppofe or di-
 vert the ſmalleſt of thy difpenfations ; for, as all
 things are thine, fo are all under thy guidance.
 When thou ſhutteſt, none can open ; and when
 thou openeſt, there is no end or meafure to thy
 bounty ! Men are as buſtling mariners in the
 midſt

midst of a ship ; they run to and fro, and busily handle the tackle ; and they think that all depends on their own powers, and is actuated by their own operations : but the wind blows as it listeth ; and the great invisible pilot steers the vessel of the world, with all that are therein, whithersoever it pleaseth him.

I then ordered the hampers to be brought out of the boot, one of old wine for the good old couple, and the other of cold meats, that we might put the family to as little cost and trouble as possible.

The two nights that I staid there, were some of the happiest I ever spent in my life ; for each rejoiced in the joy of each, and I in the joys of all. The old couple would have complimented me with their own apartment, but this I did not suffer ; so Emmy and I lay in their second bed, and Mrs. Turney and her sons on beds borrowed from the neighbours.

On the first night, Mrs. Turney entertained her father and mother with the recital of her own adventures, from the time she had first parted ; but their emotions and passions, on the several
quick

quick transitions from joy to grief and grief to joy, were quite past description ; for they had the feelings of parents added to those of their humanity.

On the day following, all Mr. Upright's parishioners, men, women, and children, came crowding about the house ; some to congratulate him on the recent accession of fortune, and others to lament the departure of their father in God, as they stiled him. Indeed I never saw so pathetic a mixture of gratulation and wailing, of smiles and tears.

The good man immediately found his heart enlarged toward every member of his flock, as toward the children of his bowels. He ordered a fatted sheep to be killed in haste ; the yard also grew red with the blood of his poultry. He sent for liquors to the town ; and causing all to sit, in order, on the green before the door, the feast was spread, and seasoned with his cordial blessing.

O, Mr. Upright, cried the lips of a white head, you are the true representative of your
master

master, who fed the body at the time that he instructed the spirit. But, what shall we do for our future Sunday's feast, Mr. Upright? You are going to fatten others, while you leave us to famish.

The next morning we prepared to set out, and breakfast passed in a general silence; for all hearts and eyes were full at the necessity of parting. At length I took my leave of Mrs. Upright with a cordial kiss; not forgetting the worthy Deborah, nor her offered bounty of the crown, which was now amply recompensed by Mrs. Turney and myself. But, when I went to the reverend gentleman, and kissed and pressed him in my arms, I could no longer refrain myself; while, with streaming eyes and hands lifted in pious ardour over me, he would forcibly have pulled blessings from heaven upon my head.

On our journey, I know not by what accident, the off hind wheel loosened and dropped from our carriage. We found ourselves going, when Emily, with an action quick as thought,
pulled

pulled me to her and cast herself on the other side ; so that I fell on the poor dear thing, without receiving any hurt save what I felt for her.

As soon as we had got out, though she uttered no complaint, I perceived by her countenance that she was in pain. I was greatly alarmed and terrified, and wished to exchange my feelings for her ailments, whatever they might be. Ah, my dear Emmy, said I, I fear that your arm is broke ; I would to heaven, she cried, that every bone in my body were broken, so it might be the means of preserving my mistress !

JULIET, JULIET, exclaimed lady CRANFIELD, why do you not introduce me to your heroes and heroines, your Emilies and Uprights, and Deborahs, and Turneys ? Miss GRENVILLE laughed and answered, You see, madam, that I am introducing them to you as fast as ever I can ; and I wish that those, who are to follow, may be still more deserving of your regard.

Happily, my Emmy's arm was not broke, and that, to me, was matter of much joy and thanksgiving ; but it was six weeks before the contusion could be wholly removed.

But, JULIET, said the countess, I know not how you manage it : whether it is, that you drop all the dead and heavy matter of your story, imperceptibly, by the way ; or whether you animate the whole with the sentiments of your own spirit, I cannot say ; but my heart, like a tuned though subordinate instrument, bears unison and accord to every word you utter. Proceed ; I will not interrupt you any more.

On my return, madam, I found that my father, during my absence, had been on a visit to his friends at Epsom, and to inspect the proceedings of his Magdalen-house, as he called it ; and he met me big with the history of his favourite Guinnifred, which he said he had learned by a wonderful incident. However, I shall beg my father's pardon for the present, and suspend the narration respecting miss Guinnifred, till we have put a period to the affairs of the friends we have in hand.

Some

Some months after our return to London, I sent Emmy, with our cook, to teach her how to market. On her return, she came and blushing told me, that she was met and followed, and greatly teased, by a man who offered her several presents, all of which she refused; that however she could not get quit of him, till she found shelter from him, by entering the house.

Pray what sort of a man, Emmy? A very handsome, and a very civil gentleman indeed, madam; all I wonder at is, how he could find in his head or heart to take such a fancy to such a chit as I am.

How should you like him for a husband, Emmy? A husband, madam, of all things! a good joke indeed. No no, no husband for your Emmy on this side the grave. You alone are and ever shall be my lady and mistress, my lord and master and husband; and here I vow, as such, to love, honour, and obey you, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others to keep to you only, till death us do part.

Ah,

Ah, you little hypocrite, said I, laughing ! here you pretend a mighty aversion to a husband, forsooth ; and yet have gotten the whole marriage ceremony by rote. Emmy coloured, and laughed, and said, no matter for that, madam, you shall find me constant and faithful to my vows, however. No, my Emily, said I, that must not be neither ; when we happen to find the man I shall think worthy of you, a fortune shall not be wanting to recommend you, I promise.

Yonder, madam, yonder he is, cried Emmy in a flutter ; the gentleman in the blue and silver, on the other side of the street !—Well, child, leave me awhile and keep yourself out of view ; I will undertake to save you from his importunity for the future.

I then threw up the window, and beckoned him to me ; and, making a low and graceful bow, he directly attended my summons. As he entered, I endeavoured, at a glance, to enter into his character. I have seen few finer persons, and his aspect had something in it extremely honest and engaging. His age seemed under
thirty

thirty, and Emmy was turned of fourteen ; so that I did not think the disparity any great matter.

Sir, said I, there is a young friend of mine who complains that you interrupt her, when abroad on my lawful occasions.—I ask you a thousand pardons, madam ; I meant no manner of offence. She will not say I was rude to her ; I never was so to any woman ; my soul prompts me to defend, not to insult your sex. I presume that the young thing is an attendant on your ladyship ; and I confess I have taken an uncommon and singular liking to her.

And what may be your design in that liking, I pray you, sir ?—Nothing but what is very affectionate and very honourable, I assure you, madam. Were she now of woman's estate, I would marry her preferably to any I know upon earth ; but youth is a defect that time is not slow in mending. I will wait your leisure, madam ; and, with your approbation, at the day of our marriage, I will settle three thousand pounds upon her, and four thousand more on the issue I may have by her ; in the mean time,

if you can meet a worthier offer, I will make her a free gift of five hundred pounds, toward portioning her off to a better man.

You surprize me, sir, you greatly surprize and affect me, I cried ; and still more so by the generosity of your sentiments, than of your offer. But, the truth is, that I am not sole controller in the present case. The girl has a mother who lives at Highgate ; I was just going to pay her a visit, and if you will favour me with your company, I will make the required proposal before you. He assented ; I rung for the chariot, and in we stepped.

When we got clear of the rumbling interruption of the streets, Have you an address about you, sir, said I, that may intimate by what name I am to introduce you to the mother ? Right madam, said he, and blushed ; your rebuke is just indeed ; I ought to have informed you, that my name is Turney.

Turney, Turney ! I cried, and started, and looking piercingly at him ; were you ever upon a voyage, Mr. Turney ? I was, madam, on several ;

veral ; it is not many months since I returned from the East-Indies.

I then pulled the string, and ordered the coachman to go softly.—Pray pardon my curiosity, sir, possibly you may not find it altogether impertinent ; have you ever been married, Mr. Turney. I was, madam ; and was also the father of several children—Sons or daughters, sir ?—Four sons, madam.—Then Mr. Turney, I doubt you have been somewhat too precipitate in your proposals for a second marriage this day.—That cannot be, madam, my wife is unquestionably dead these many years past. On my arrival I made all possible search after her, and enquired about her ; nay, I spent three entire months, in drawing out advertisements, and in pasting them on every post and corner, with offers of large rewards for the discovery of my dearest girl and her little ones.—Ah, Mr. Turney, this is a very large and a very busy city ; where they neither have leisure, nor to say the truth, the humanity to attend to the concerns of other folk. But, tell me at once, is not your christian name Felix ?—You astonish me greatly, my dearest lady ; it is indeed.—Then, sir,

fir, we are, this instant, on a visit to your wife and your four sons ; and she was your own and only daughter for whom you made proposals of marriage this very day.

Great God ! he exclaimed, and trembled, and turned pale—how can it be, madam ; how could this be brought about ?

I then related to him the manner in which I had purchased, and cherished, and educated his little Emily ; whereupon he caught my hand, and bowing down, and breaking into tears upon it, he wept till I thought his heart would have burst.

Now, he cried, I discover the reason of the sudden inclination I took to my own child. If it was not partly instinct, it must have arisen wholly from the resemblance she bore to her mother, to the image so long and deeply impressed upon my heart ; for, I well perceive that it was not an inclination of desire ; and you know, madam, that I offered to portion her off to another.

But

But, sir, said I, you must not think of alarming my friend now, as you formerly did. You must wait aloof, and with all due patience, in the carriage, while I step and prepare her spirits for your reception. Yonder are all your sons ; I see them before the door.

I drew the string, the chariot stopt, and opening the door I jumped out and tripped along till the little lads espied me. They were dressed in their pretty uniform of green, and they all came flying to me and clinging about me ; while the father peeped, but did not dare to claim his share in their caresses.

As soon as I had got clear of my captivity by the children, one of them hurried in to apprise the mother of my arrival, and she came running to meet me ; but I stopped her within the door. Come in, Mrs. Turney, I have something to say to you in private. Come, sit down beside me awhile. And now tell me what you would think of a handsome, reputable, worthy, and wealthy husband, Mrs. Turney ? Her countenance instantly fell ; and, turning to me a jealous and mournful look, Ah madam, she cried,
dearly,

dearly, dearly have I paid for the husband of my love ; and I never will pay a farthing for the husband of my aversion ; for that would certainly be the case with any man breathing, after my Felix. But, my lady, it may be you begin to be tired of me—and she lifted her swimming eyes to my face ;—indeed it is full time ; but your bounty has supplied my father with sufficient and more than sufficient for him and all his progeny, and so we shall still remain beholden and dependent upon you.

I cast my arm about her neck, and repeatedly kissed her. No, my dear Mrs. Turney, said I, I should never be tired of you ; but I have a notion that you will shortly be weary of me. Have you heard any thing of your Felix lately ?—Of Felix, of Felix, madam ! what may you mean by that question ? and she thrust her eyes into me with an inquisitive and searching gaze.—Why, a ship from the East Indies is just come up the river ; so we may learn something about him,—perhaps he came in the very vessel. I have heard of many instances where ships have been wrecked, and only one or two escaped ; and who knows but that Providence
may

may have preserved your Felix to you, in reward of your filial and conjugal piety.

Ah, she cried, you know more of this matter, or you would not intimate so much. Tell me, tell me, does he live, is he arrived, is he landed, where is he, madam, tell me quickly? and she cast a look around, as wanting to catch him within her eyes, and her bosom rose and fell with alternate and difficult heavings.

Mrs. Turney, said I, if you do not settle yourself to some reasonable composure, you shall not hear a syllable more from me, I assure you.—Well madam, I am quiet; do you not see that I am quiet?—Then I have to inform you, that your husband is actually alive, that he is in England, and that I have seen and spoken to him. But, one would imagine you wish never to see him; and want to kill yourself out of the way, to prevent the interview.—And what care I, madam, if I never set eyes upon him? shew his dear children to him, however, I beseech you!

Here

Here she fell into a fit of weeping and sobbing ; and I sat silent and attending, till I observed that her tears had afforded her some relief.

Mrs. Turney, said I, if you will not be pacified, I protest I will send your Felix back to town without suffering him to see you. Ah, she cried, then he is here ; and she started suddenly up, stared wildly about, and flew to the door ; but I got to it before her, and, gently pushing her back with both my hands, prevailed upon her to be seated.

Yes, my friend, said I, your husband is here ; but, I will not have any deaths, or swoonings, or hysterics, to answer for : so, here I take out my watch, and will sit silent beside you for five minutes ; and if, in that time, you can bring yourself to any temper, I will go out and bring your Felix to you ; but I must not have you, like a frantic, run into the streets, and alarm and bring the neighbourhood upon us.

We then sat together, without exchanging a syllable, till the term of the five minutes prescribed

scribed had passed. I hope you are satisfied at last, said she; I promise you now to see him without any emotion, just as though I met any other indifferent person.—Very well; keep quiet awhile where you are, and I will not hold you long in waiting.

I left her sitting, and walked from her at my leisure. I then moved soberly down street till I got in sight of Mr. Turney, where his head and shoulders were thrust impatiently out at the carriage-windows. I beckoned to him, and he sprung out and flew to meet me. Soft sir, said I, stopping him; we are not yet out of danger: restrain your transport, I pray you. I then told him of the fits that his wife had been in, and that my apprehensions on her account were far from being over. So I stepped on leisurely before him toward the house, while he followed in a kind of bridled agitation.

I entered and perceived that she still sat quiet in her chair; but her eyes had not lost their wildness, and they went out eagerly in search of something behind me.

At length Felix half made his appearance. Ah, there he is, she screamed out, and instantly sprung up ; but sunk down again, faint, pale, and panting, upon her chair. Immediately I applied my salts, and called for cold water ; while Felix was on his knees, reflecting the paleness of her own countenance before her.

In a quarter of an hour we brought them to speech, in something more to motion, and motion rose to rapture.

No delicate motive was left me for retiring, on this occasion, lest my presence should put a restraint on the freedom of my friends ; they heeded me not, they saw me not, they did not seem to know that they had any concern with any one upon earth, except each other. My Letty, do I indeed, do I once more see you, my Letty ? Waken me not, said she ; I am in a sweet dream of my love. I see and touch my Felix, as he were living before me ; thousands and thousands of leagues his dear ghost has come to take his last leave of me before he goes for ever.

O,

O, madam, what kind of a frame is this frame of our mortality? We die with pain; we die with pleasure; we can bear nothing in excess. We turn away from things indifferent, as from half cold and palled victuals; and yet, when our sensations rise to a certain pitch, the degree becomes quite insufferable whatever its nature may be. Imagination, like an executioner of the pitiless inquisition, keeps his rack ever in readiness; he stretches us thereon at pleasure, and strains the cords, and we lie panting and expiring beneath the tension.

All our passions, said the COUNTESS, are very perilous in their extremes. Yet, I will answer for you, my JULIET; you would rather be melted and exhaled away by the warmth and intenseness of love, than to be frozen and squeezed to death by the pressure of the selfish passions in the frigid zone.

Quite the contrary, my dearest madam, cried miss GRENVILLE: I am under no apprehension from what the influence or power of hatred, envy, or covetousness, with all the malignant passions joined together, can do unto me; but,

do

do I set love at defiance in the same manner ?
O, no ! Thence arose all my calamities, all my
sufferings, all my anguish ; and sad experience
assures me, that I have nothing else to fear.

My dear girl, rejoined the COUNTESS, I never
knew you iniquitous or ungrateful before. Love
is your constituent essence ; it had more to do in
your composition than the Graces themselves.
Those, who share not the thousandth dividend of
your amiable affections, have no other ingredient
save their single drop of love, to sweeten all the
antipathies and bitterness of life. The spirits,
that are conformed to the image of the God of
Love, can relish no pleasure, but the pleasure of
loving : it is the turning and informing touch
of every species of virtue. All that deserves the
name of sentiment, is no other than some mode
or feeling of its blissful inspiration ; and in death,
as in life, there is no other true consolation or
delight.

What you allege, said miss' GRENVILLE,
may and will have, I trust, its reality and blessed-
ness in a future state : and I ardently wish, that
your ladyship may enjoy all the sweets of love,
even

even here upon earth, without any of its bitter poignancy ; the rose without the prickle, and the honey without the sting. For myself, I must be honest enough to avow, that the doctrine which you teach has not answered to my feelings. We are equally enjoined to weep with those who weep, as to rejoice with those who rejoice ; but, how rare, how very rarely do we meet the objects of our rejoicing ; while the subjects for lamentation surround us on all sides, and meet us at every corner ? The greater the fund of our human affections, the greater and more enlarged is our apparatus for wretchedness ; and if, as your ladyship insists, there is an advantage in those propensities, I become like that Tarpeia, of whom it is written that she sunk and perished under the weight of the treasures that were heaped upon her. But, no more on the subject of myself, I beseech you ; it is a subject of all subjects the most ungrateful to me.

And so, madam, as I meant to tell you, the over joyous Letitia and her most happy Felix began, at length, to look about them, and perceived, with some confusion, that there were other people in the world beside themselves.

When I had laughed at the apologies they made for their inattention, I called the boys in and introduced them to their father. The eldest remembered something of him, and soon became familiar ; but the rest looked cold and strange at him, and appeared disgusted at the liberties he took with their mother.

Mrs. Turney, said I, I shall not think of leaving you, till I hear how your ghost of a husband has got his new clothes of flesh and blood upon him ; as also how many more children he purposes to have, before he sets out on his next voyage. O madam, said he laughing, my Letty may hereafter breed as fast as she pleases ; we have wherewithal to provide for her and her succeeding generations.

If that is the case said I, I bespeak myself a mess-mate at your family dinner to-day, on condition that nothing enters your doors for the purpose.—Madam, I have fresh greens from my own garden, fresh eggs from my own hens, fine pullets of my own rearing, and excellent bacon of my own curing. Enough, enough, I cried, no more of your dainties !—Step, Mrs. Turney,
set

set your maid to work, and return as fast as you can, that we may enter on the first part of this gentleman's romance ; when dinner has put us into spirits and good humour, we may be able to relish the remaining fruits of his invention, by way of desert.

Our Letty soon returned, and then our Felix launched out on the wide ocean of his adventures, steering here and weathering there, with a long rhodomontade of tacking and flacking, of starboard and larboard, and of the Canaries, and the Capes, where their fairest maidens adorn their beauties with bracelets of the very stuff whereof our fiddlestrings are made.

At length, said he, we came within thirty leagues of Fort St. George, to which we were bound. But, O madam, he cried, with a tender and touching apostrophe, the farther and the farther I went from home, the more I felt my soul and yearning vitals pulled back toward the other parts of myself, toward my espoused and her helpless infants whom I left behind me. My heart sunk inward to the centre, and rising again cried, O thou, who feedest the young ravens ;
thou

thou numberer of the hairs, and watcher over the sparrows; thou who suppliest every worm that creeps within thy graciousness; take my little ones also, even my helpless little ones, to thy keeping, I beseech thee! and so he listened to my prayer from a thousand leagues off; and he sent this his angel, who now sits before me, not only to take charge of those for whom I prayed, but to provide for her also of whom I knew not; that, under him, we might all be beholden to her alone, and become her willing servants henceforward and for ever.

Mrs. Turney wept in silence, and Felix wiped his eye, and proceeded.

The day had been fine; breezy, though exceeding hot; but night came on with a lowry and angry aspect. The winds began to rustle through our shrouds; and squalls came on us, at intervals, with such a sudden fury, as nearly overfet us before we could lower our sails. Apprehension quickly spread through every countenance on board; and those, who feared least, caught additional terror from the panick that was visible in the faces of their fellows.

As

As the night darkened, the storm grew stronger and steadier. The wind blew to shore; but we set more hands to the steerage, and kept aloof as much as possible, till the tempest rose to such a height, that we were obliged to cord the helm to the side of the ship.

Though drowning, as I think, madam, is the speediest and least painful of all kinds of death, yet, in its approaches, it is, of all others, the most formidable and terrifying. We were now within about eight leagues of land: the waves boiled and divided, and mounting and dashing down again, they tore the sands and earth from the bottom of the ocean; then scaling the very heavens, they mixed and confounded all the elements together, while the whole appeared as Milton's hell, where satan and his host lay weltering in waves of liquid fire.

I was then summoned to the great cabin. Captain Jennison, of late, had shewn me particular kindness, and caused me to dine at his own table, and to lie in his own apartment. He sat at a table with a paper newly written before him. Felix, said he, with a firm voice, draw near, sit down
there

there before me. We are in greater danger, Felix, than our people imagine. The natives of this coast are barbarous to the last degree ; and, should we weather the storm, they will do their very utmost to make a wreck of our ship if they do not find it so. I have, therefore, been providing against the worst that can happen. Take some stout hands with you, and let down the longboat ; and make the best of your way by sea, or land, to the garrison, that they may keep along the coast, and preserve us and our effects from becoming a prey to the barbarians.

In the mean time, my dear Felix, I have something to say to you, before I bid you adieu, perhaps for ever !

Your care and tendernefs toward me, in my late illness, though I did not say much of the matter, made a deep impression upon me, such indeed as will never leave the bottom of my heart. You can weep, my Felix ; you have a tear for friendship, and a tear also for affliction ; and justice, as well as courage, dwells surest with humanity : I have, therefore, appointed you sole controller of all my worldly affairs.

This

This is my will, Felix, which I commit into your hands, as also this my pocket-book of bills on the India merchants. If you perish, with these, I have still my chest of silver on board ; and I may have my bills renewed according to this Schedule, or reclaim the value on my return to England. But, if I perish and you survive, you will then discharge your trust with honour ; I doubt it not, no more than I doubt my own existence.

All my relations are comprised in an elder brother, and a younger sister. My brother is vastly rich, but rude and unnatural ; and the nearer I was to him in blood, the more he looked upon me as an alien, and thrust me from him ; so I have cut him off with a shilling. My sister is a weak girl who threw herself away on one Fulmer, my father's clerk, and they keep a little shop of grocery in Redriff ; and so I leave them to your discretion and the directions of my will.—God preserve us, the hurricane grows higher and higher!—Do not look at the will now, Felix ; if we meet again upon earth, there will be room enough for acknowledgments. But time presses ; you must haste to land, if we can get any who are brave enough to accompany

accompany you. In heaven, at the farthest, I will thank you for your love and kindness to your Jennison.

So saying, we threw our arms about each other, with a strait embrace; and we wept as it were in a hurry, for I was not able to speak.

We then got upon deck. They all crowded about us; and the captain proclaimed, as loud as the winds would let him, a hundred guineas reward to every man, who would venture on shore for the saving of the company's ship.

A general silence ensued. But, when I stood forth and offered myself to the enterprize, a few voices, here and there, echoed to my assent. We then flung out the boat, and twelve of us, with the utmost difficulty and danger, got in. So we instantly put to sea; and gave and got the last cheer that either party was to get on this side of eternity.

All things raged above us, beneath us, and about us, as though it were the final rack and wreck of nature herself. I gave myself for lost,
and

and I boldly seized the rudder. For I no longer feared a death that I saw was inevitable, and which I deemed, in part, to be already over. So desperation stood me in the place of courage and resolution, and I neither looked up nor prayed for any kind of deliverance. I only whispered, within myself, and said,

Lord, thou knowest that I know I am vile, exceedingly vile; and that I am not able to make myself better in life or in death, either now or in futurity. But, all hearts are in thy hands, in thy forming and moulding; even out of this heart of stone, thou canst raise up a son unto faithful Abraham; thou canst do it as instantly as thou canst do it effectually. Shall death then preclude or bar thee from thy influence or operation? No, surely! Life and death, time and eternity, are equally in thy guidance and governance. Tear me then from my own will, and from my own ways. I turn from them, I detest them; but they still cleave to me. At any cost, oh, rend me unto thyself, I beseech thee! Wrap me into the whirlwind throughout thine own immensity; plunge me down to the boiling bottom of thy seas and thy oceans;

oceans ; precipitate me into the flames whose fire is not quenched ! but finally, O thou Redeemer, catch me to thyself, and make me altogether such as thou wouldest have me to be !

Quick as thought, even before the short process of my petition was ended, a solidity of confidence and peace came upon me ; and I sat, as I thought, unmoved within the tossing, and calm amidst the tempest.

I kept steering aloof from shore as much as the wind would permit, that I might approach as near as possible to the fortress. At length we struck upon a shoal ; and instantly we were overset and overwhelmed in the waters.

My presence of mind, however, did not forsake me ; as I arose, my arm struck against something that was hard ; and catching at it, I found a large oar within my gripe. Immediately I grasped it at the centre with both my hands, and gave myself to be carried whither the winds and the waves listed.

Wave

Wave after wave came tumbling over me ; but I still kept my hold, and rose again to recruit my breath. At length my foot touched ground, and I stood and panted awhile, but gave myself up to the following billew that bore me farther toward land ; and this I did successively, till I was past the power of the waters. I then lifted my heart and eyes in thanks to heaven ; and again I dropped a tear to the memory of each of my late comrades.

The moon now began to rise, the clouds fled, and the winds fell before the serene majesty of her countenance. I perceived and pursued a path that led on, within sight of shore ; and, by dawning, I got within view of the fort.

I had folded and put the captain's will into his pocket book, which I had buttoned up, next my bosom, within side my shirt and waistcoat, so that the papers were safe from any damage by the waters.

Immediately I alarmed the fort, and the soldiers and inhabitants came forth and lined the coast.

coast. I strained my eyes towards the sea, but, alas, no ship appeared in sight. At length, a man, who had a perspective, said he saw something, at a great distance, lying motionless on the surface of the water.

We then got out a sloop in haste, and with sail and oars made directly to the place. Alas, it was indeed the stem of our great vessel that stuck fast in a bank of sand; while the rest of the ship was staved and sunk, or borne away by the current.

We threw up our grapplings, and scaled the deck, which stood high above the water that was now at ebb. O, my God, how insignificant in thy sight, are the labours of men, and the treasures he so prizes, when all were here so profusely cast away.

We found the great cabin still full of water; so we bored the planks on either side, and let the water run. We then descended, and found captain Jennison's great chest, and mine, with all the chests of the principal officers, the initials of whose names were fixed thereon in letters of
brass

brass nails. All these I claimed for the respective proprietors and their representatives, and then gave up the rest of the wreck, as matter of free prize, to those who had accompanied me.

It was wonderful to see with what force and agility they, in a few minutes, tore up the flooring and sides of the state room. They brought to light the captain's hampers and store of wines, with numberless effects that they pulled from the side boxes, or heaved from the bottom; while each of them turned a grudging eye on his fellow, as fearing that he had found a richer hoard than himself.

The tide now began to rise; and having cleared the wreck of all that was portable, we heaved down the chests and other valuables, and stowing them in the sloop, set out on our return.

I wept the whole way, and I cried to myself, O my Jennison, my friend Jennison, why was it not allowed me to perish in thy place? I would willingly have died for thee, my friend, my friend!

On our landing, what with hunger, fatigue, and grief, I took to my bed, and did not rise for upward of three weeks.

On my recovery, I produced the captain's will. His hand was known by some in the fort, and by several in Madras, more particularly his large seal of the Swan ; so that I was admitted his lawful executor, and found but little difficulty in negotiating his bills.

Soon after, I joined the English under the gallant colonel Clive, who honoured me with his notice in a few small skirmishes, and thereupon presented me with a lieutenant's commission.

I attended close to his person at that memorable action, where six hundred English and about fifteen hundred seapoys discomfited an army of two hundred thousand men ; and where our general was said to have acquired immense riches by the pillage of the Nabob's tent. Indeed we all got sufficient, if any measure could be assigned to that which would suffice ; for covetousness

vetousness is as a fire, that encreases, widens, and rages, the more for being fed.

On the second day of the pursuit, we came up with one of the enemy who appeared to be faint and dying by the way, and some of those about me were eager to dispatch him ; but I restrained them and cried, What are ye about, my friends ? He no longer can be your enemy, who no longer can resist you ; much less can he be an enemy who wants your assistance, who requires an act of friendship at your hands.

I then demanded of the unhappy man what ailed him ? when, giving me a languid look, and raising his feeble hand to his pale and trembling lips, he intimated that he was dying of extreme thirst. As each of us had a leathern bottle of water slung by his side, I offered money to any one who would give him to drink ; but my offers and entreaties were rejected by all. I then put my own bottle into his hand, when raising it to his head, he flayed not till he had turned the bottom to the zenith.

At

At first he seemed something revived, and attempted at utterance ; but the draught had overcome him ; his breath came quick and short, and, finding himself going, he caught my hand hastily, put something into it, gave it a grateful squeeze, and expired..

I know not why it is, that our love encreases toward those, to whom we have endeavoured to do a benefit. I found myself affected by the fate of this stranger ; I dropt a tear over him ; bid him a mournful adieu, and hastened after my company..

On coming within sight of them, I stopt to look at the bequest of my late friend. It was a small ivory box, and contained a number of diamonds, to the value of about six hundred pounds in England, but not of near that estimation in the country of the Nabobs. Lord, said I, with lifted eyes, if it is thus that thou rewardest those who barely yield to thine own dictates within their bosom, even the lovers of mammon would find themselves interested in becoming the lovers of thy graciousness also!

On the afternoon of the third day of our pursuit, my whole company being with me, an Indian came running and informed us that he could lead us to a rich booty, provided we engaged to give him a proportionable share. The bargain was quickly struck, and we set on in haste.

We had not marched far, when, looking to the right, I saw a sumptuous house, and, in a lawn that fronted the building, a litter overturned, with a bundle of something that glittered lying beside it. I instantly turned, and my people, in hope of plunder, willingly followed me. But, when we arrived, we found that the bundle, which my men had proposed to themselves as prize, was no other than a lady richly dressed, and wounded, and weltering in her own blood. She turned to us with a lovely but very pale face, and with a pair of eyes that shewed as luminaries in eclipse.

My heart was struck with as strong compassion, as though she had been my sister. I addressed her, and she answered me in very intelligible English. She told me, in short sentences,
that

that her mother had been a European ; that tidings came that morning of her noble husband being killed in the late action ; and that the English and their adherents were in hot pursuit : that, thereupon, she and her domestics collected, in a hurry, whatever was most valuable and portable in the house ; but that they had not travelled two hundred paces before her servants conspired against her, left her for dead on the spot, and seized and carried off all her treasure.

I groaned inwardly for the condition of human nature so depraved, and promised her all the relief in our power. But my myrmidons began to murmur, and one of them cried, Since her treasures are gone, we have nothing farther to say to her. Damn it, said a second, the pitiful heart of our captain would make beggars of us all. Ay, exclaimed a third, it is happy for others that he is not their leader ; were he commander in chief, the whole army would be brought to nothing by his qualms about spoiling the spoiled, and oppressing the oppressed. Will you come with us, sir, cried a fourth, or will you allow us to go without you ? Ay, go all, who

who will, to the devil, I cried; such followers are best suited to such a leader!

At the word, away they scampered all, save three who had been more particularly attached to my person. I had learned some little matter of surgery during our long voyage; so I examined the lady's wounds, and found she had received a large cut on the head, a stab in the neck, and another in her bosom. I turned hastily aside, and tearing a large part of my shirt into pieces, I bound up her wounds, and replacing her in the litter, we joined to carry her gently toward her own house. Alas, she cried, with a languid but affectionate look, I am destroyed by my own people, and an enemy wishes to save me.

As pity had fixed my eye on her faded countenance, I observed that she altered farther on our approach to the house. Stop, stop, she faintly said, your charity comes too late; carry me into yonder garden, and lay me in my last bed. Go on, till you come to the great mulberry tree.

We

We did as directed, and stopped at the tree. Here, she whispered, and feebly pointed with her finger, here will I lie till the trumpet shall call death to life!—Dig my grave here, fir; but dig it deep, till you find my coffin—and my coffin—shall reward—the living—for—his kindness to—the dead.

Those were the last words she uttered; when, closing her fine eyes, she gave a weakly sigh, and lay cold and breathless.

Immediately I sent my companions to search the house for instruments to prepare her grave, while my eyes paid the tribute that is due to mortality. They speedily returned, and we set about the work. Come friends, said I, you think this but heavy business, while your fellows, as you imagine, are gathering treasures in the field; but the work of humanity is a very sweet work, and charity carries a rich reward, a pearl of mighty price, within its own bosom; however, if that will not suffice, I will, from my own purse, make your wages at least equivalent to what your comrades shall glean.

They,

They, thereupon, began to assist me with alacrity ; for neither they nor I had founded the slightest expectation on the mystical promise of the reward in the coffin.

On digging and casting up the clay to a considerable depth, I conceived that the earth began to sound hollow and tuneful ; and soon after we found an impenetrable resistance. We then conceived new hopes, and shoveled up the mould apace, till we uncovered the surface of a large chest. Having cleared about it with much labour, we endeavoured to raise it, but our joint force proved unequal to the attempt. My men then hastened to the house with incredible expedition, and brought implements for wrenching open the lid. This we soon effected ; but, what was our astonishment, when we saw the chest quite full of the silver coin of all the European countries ; a treasure which the proprietor had probably hidden there, as a matter of resource in case of devastation by war or famine.

The transports of my companions reached nearly to frenzy : but my joy was much abated

by casting an eye down to the generous donor, and reflecting that she lay insusceptible of any return of gratitude or service.

The question now occurred, by what method we should be enabled to carry this vast weight of wealth? so my associates flew once more to the house, in order to search for means of conveyance. In some time after, they returned, bringing a number of bags of coarse sack; and also leading two dromedaries, which they had found in the stables, and had accoutered with panniers.

This answered all our purposes. So we began to fill the bags, and stow them into the panniers; and, having at length emptied the chest, we decently deposited our patroness therein, returned the mould into the cavity, bid adieu to her honoured remains, and departed.

As the cattle were heavy laden, we returned slowly by a road that led to our encampment; where, at length, we arrived without any obstruction, or even meeting a single native on the way such a general pannick had spread throughout the country.

I then called my three adherents aside, and rewarded their attachment, till two of them cried enough ! and desired me to stay my hand.

I now was rich to the height of my wishes, and much transcending my ambition. So I sighed to be at home, that I might impart to the chosen of my soul and her little ones ; but no vessel was then on the passage for England.

Mean while, with the assistance of some mercantile friends, I disposed of all my treasures to good advantage ; and in exchange, laid up stores of such commodities as I was advised were most vendible in the London market ; and so was prepared to set off in the first ship.

At this very time it happened, very unfortunately as I then supposed, that the enemy broke the truce ; and, without any declaration or notice of hostility, came by night upon Calcutta, surpris'd and took it, and massacred the soldiery and all the inhabitants, without mercy, or distinction of age or sex. They then invaded the Carnatic, a territory that had been ceded to the company by compact, and wasted all before them with fire and sword.

This

This gave a general alarm to the English and their adherents, and dispatches were sent on all sides to bring our forces together. Alas, thought I, how is it that no laws nor institutions of any kind, neither covenants nor compacts, nor bulwarks or barriers, can be a barrier to the peaceful against the disturber, can afford an asylum to the merciful and humane from the butchery and depredation of the children of perdition?

My wishes and sentiments rose in arms, and were divided against each other on this occasion. I longed to be at home; but was provoked to the last degree by the treachery and cruelty of those barbarians. The war was now a just and conscientious war; retaliation became a duty; and I farther feared, that the little character I had gained would be charged with cowardice, should I quit the service at the time of the greatest need. Colonel Wood also offered me the command of a battalion of five hundred seapoys; and this farther determined me to commit myself to the keeping of that power, who had preserved me in more imminent perils; and so I engaged in the service with more alacrity than ever.

When

When we had collected a body sufficient for taking the field, we marched to obstruct the farther progress of the enemy. On the third night, we pitched within a few miles of their army ; and setting out before day we got round under the shelter of a long range of rocks, and with a shout suddenly broke upon their left flank. This threw them into such instant terror and confusion, that they had not leisure to form, or even think of their defence.

During their astonishment, the carnage became incredible ; and the blood spilt at Calcutta, was refunded many fold ; but, after a short and feeble resistance, they broke over their own entrenchments ; and, while the bravest among them kept facing and firing upon us as we followed, the remaining body of their army got clear off.

However, the spirit of revenge was still so predominant in us, even so far above the spirit of avarice, that we stayed not to rattle their camp ; but, leaving a party to guard it, we made a forced march after them. The day grew extremely hot, beyond any thing, I believe, that ever was felt under the downright beams of the torrid

zone. We had a number of cattle with us ; but all, save a few, were employed in carrying our tents and provisions. It was at my option to ride, like some others among the principal officers, and, in truth, I was much importuned to do so ; nay my seapoys had grown so fond of me, that they offered to carry me in a palanquin, or even upon their shoulders ; but I was deaf to all their entreaties. What, said I to my soul, shall I be raised above my fellows in honour and in office, and yet debase myself below the least in patience and endurance ? No, forbid it manhood ; let my sufferings rather be proportioned to my elevation ! So on I footed it with my fellows, which so endeared me to them, that they seemed to gather fresh action and ability from my example ; and the following battalions scarce kept us in fight.

But O, that day, that insufferable day ! we found thousands of the enemy dead or gasping before us ; our own ranks also began to thin ; numbers fainted by the way ; and the very dogs that accompanied us, sunk down and expired.

At length our water was exhausted, and our thirst became intense. We then applied to the wells, to which our guides led us : but our enemies had filled them with the rank bodies of their dead. Necessity, however, compelled us to swallow a portion of the nauseous and abhorred draught, and this supported us in a measure ; till having marched about six leagues from the late scene of action, we came in sight of the enemy, who again stood to their arms, and were arranged in battle array on the farther side of the river Jumna.

However formidable this sight, to men so wholly fatigued and already satiate of slaughter, the sight of the river administered instant transport and vigour in expectation ; inasmuch, that I could scarce restrain my few followers from rushing down upon the front of the adverse army.

I withheld them, however, more by intreaties than commands, till Colonel Wood arrived with the main body. When, after a short halt, and a few minutes taken in forming, the word was given for marching against the enemy ; and, in the very instant, all ranks were broken and mixed
like

like buflers in a crowded market; and down they rufhed together, as by one confent, and precipitated themfelves into the river, without throwing away a thought on the adverfe army, that kept a hot and continued fire upon us from the oppofite fide. However, little damage was done, as we were deep in the water, or in a flooping pofture: and having flaked our thirft, we forded the pafs, charged them briskly, and put them to infant flight. We then entrenched on the field they left us, with the river at our rear; and, with the help of our fatigue, fleep foundly till morning was far advanced.

By this time, the cattle with our baggage arrived, as alfo numbers of our men who had fallen from us by the way; and thefe we left with the wounded in our camp, and renewed our purfuit after the enemy. We had not gone above a hundred paces, however, before they faved us the trouble of farther travel, and came down in full and orderly march upon us.

They had been largely reinforced from a country of the Morattoes, over which the gallant Aftmet Ally was chief, being younger brother to Hyder Ally the renowned king of Mifore.

As

As soon as we came within sight of each other, both armies halted and stood arranged in order of battle, without offering to advance on either side. The enemy, notwithstanding their reinforcement and superiority in numbers, seemed unwilling to attack men by whom they had been so often defeated ; and, to say the truth on our own part, we would gladly have avoided the risque of a battle, the loss of which must have proved irretrievable ruin in the midst of an hostile country.

While I stood, advanced at some distance before my battalion, the young leader of the adverse army, in order to encourage his men by his own example, mounted on a proud courser came galloping toward me ; and, being within hearing, stopped his horse, and accosted me in the Mussulman dialect, in which I had made a considerable progress.

Sir, said he, a brave man will chuse his enemy, as he would chuse his friend, from among the brave ; will you do me the honour to exchange a shot with me ?

A challenge, in the face of both armies, was unavoidable ; so, necessity served me in the place of valour, and I answered that I accepted his proposal with pleasure, and thanked him for the unmerited honour he did me.

He then flew from his horse, which he delivered to two silvered lacqueys, and advanced toward me with a pistol in either hand ; while I hastened to meet him, full of esteem and affection for the man with whom I was mortally engaged.

Within the distance of about twenty paces, we fired, but without effect : we then approached nearer, and both our discharges took place ; mine wounded him in the left arm, and his passed through my hat and razed the skin and hair of my left temple. He cast away his pistol, and, quick as lightning, drew upon me : Come on, sir, said he, it is the sword of honour, not of malice, that I draw. I engaged with reluctance, but he pressed hard upon me. After several passes and defences, in the heat of the contention we happened to change places, so that Asthmet fought with his back to the front of our
army ;

army; when one of my own people, possibly through a mistaken attachment to my person, came rushing from the line, and stabbed my adversary in the back. Instantly I caught up a pistol that lay beside me, and hurling it at the wretch's head, stretched him senseless on the field. Asthmet perceived the action, and, stepping up, presented me with the hilt of his sword; You are the prince of honour, said he, and, whether I live or die, I here deliver myself a willing prisoner to you. Ah, I cried, I take no prisoners by such unworthy means; but, if you please, you shall be my guest and my brother, till your recovery is ensured.

I then took him under the arm, and helped him to the lines, where, calling my surgeon, and four of my ablest fellows, we took him up between our arms, and, passing the ranks, bore him gently to our camp. There I had him to my own tent, and hastily stripping him, we examined his wounds. While this was performing, he turned a grateful glance upon me, and smilingly said, Methinks, my noble friend, you are more fearful and anxious for me than I am for myself. Yes, my lord, said I, for I fear
for

for us both ; should your wound prove mortal, the stab given to my honour will be for ever incurable. Not so, he earnestly cried, you have an honour that is invulnerable.

Happily, neither of his wounds proved dangerous, that in his back having glanced along a rib and flopped at the spinal bone ; so, when they were both dressed, we put him to bed.

In the mean time, one of my seapoys came flying from the army. He told me that our general, observing the commotion the enemy were in, upon the supposed death or captivity of their leader, had given the word to advance ; that, on the first volley, our adversaries shewed their shoulders ; that the English were in hot pursuit ; and that my soldiers besought me to mount a horse immediately, and to be with them as soon as possible.

Do, my friend, cried Asthmet, pray do as they request ; I will not suffer your attention or partiality to me, to deprive you of any part of the glory or spoil of this day's action. This coast is extremely wealthy, especially along the
river,

river, where the opulent have fixed their seats of pleasure.

And what glory, said I, shall I acquire from the slaughter of a flying foe? Or what enjoyment may my soul hereafter find in wealth derived from the ruin of the unresisting; perhaps from the wreck of innocence, from the carnage and pillage of the sons and daughters of peace? No, go all of you, who will! for me, I accept of nothing, save what honour may seize upon and conscience possess.

They took me at my word; they all vanished in a hurry, except a few domesticks and some invalids of my regiment.

The soul of Asthmet was naturally noble and docile. He had the misfortune to be the native of a country that was the seat of an almost perpetual warfare; where murder, rape, and rapine, were authorized by custom, and received a kind of sanction from examples held in esteem. He seemed, therefore, surpris'd at sentiments, that ought to be the common sentiments of all who pretend to be barely honest or humane.

Praised be Allha, he exclaimed, who this day preserved the noblest of his works from an arm, heretofore, not unaccustomed to conquest ! O, the lesson, the lesson he has given me ; it will never from my heart !——But, tell me, my friend, where did you acquire this exalted strain of thinking and acting ? Be not offended, when I tell you, that we look on your countrymen, as the most licentious and rapacious of all the human species. Were the case otherwise, they might long since have been the honoured sovereigns of willing subjects, even of all India from Delly to Madrafs. But, to plunder the people who turn to you for protection, is but cold encouragement to farther submission.

I trust, my lord, said I, that you are either prejudiced or misinformed in this matter. As to my own part, I am little skilled in landed interests or concerns ; my life has been occupied almost wholly on the waters ; and, I can avow to your highness, that my countrymen, throughout their kingdom of the ocean, are compassionate enemies, affectionate friends, and more than merely generous, they are lavish to a fault.

Pray,

Pray, said he, have you any here who might be entrusted with a letter to my seat? it stands about five leagues hence, on the other side of the river. Alas, my heart bleeds this instant, for the terrors with which my fair Savinnie will be seized, when she shall suddenly be told that her Althmet is numbered with the dead.

Yes, my lord, here are two active and loving domesticks, for whose fidelity I will be answerable; and I will order for them the swiftest horses in all our camp, that they may save your lady the anguish of any foregoing tidings.

I thank you, sir, said he; they may serve, at the same time, to bring you back my ransom: and pray spare not to rate it, as well according to my quality, as the obligations which I owe you.

As soon as I can be persuaded that your highness is a prisoner, I will then demand a ransom according to your value, and that will be high indeed; but, I will never be enriched by the treachery of my people. No, my lord, you are free, free as light or air; and, on the hour
that

that you are in a condition to travel, I will escort you, with a convoy, to your own dominions.

He closed his eyes awhile ; appeared grieved, confused, distressed ; but answered not a syllable.

Immediately I ordered my servants to prepare in haste, for their expedition ; and Asthmet, calling for paper, wrote nearly in the following terms.

“ Asthmet Ally sends greeting to the bride of
 “ his spirit. He is wounded, but not dangerous-
 “ ly ; and is in hands of higher honour, and
 “ dearer affection, than ever he found in the
 “ midst of his own country and kindred. In a
 “ few days, the light and delight of his eyes shall
 “ behold him ; and, perhaps, may have the
 “ greater happiness of beholding his generous
 “ preserver.

“ ASTHMET.”

On

On the eve of the following day, colonel Wood returned ; and, within two days more, the whole army came dropping in, in small parties, one after the other.

My battalion of their own motion, had contributed a very rich and sumptuous donation, whereof they made me an offering in the presence of prince Asthmet. I was deeply distressed thereby. It instantly struck me, that my refusal would give them great offence, and also carry the appearance of pride and ingratitude. After a short pause, I raised my eyes to them : My brothers, said I, every instance of your affection is very dear to me ; and the great value of this gift is doubly estimable, as it shews the high value at which ye rate your friend. But, if these matters have been gleaned from desolation and distress, I would to heaven I could replace them in the hands of their late owners, together with as large a portion of my own substance, provided it might serve to expiate for any fault you may have committed in the acquisition.

As our general came daily to pay his compliments to the Indian prince, we soon began to enter on a treaty of amity; and in a short space, by the mediation of Asthmet, we concluded an advantageous peace with the Morattoes.

We then prepared to decamp, and, at the head of fifty horse, I escorted my royal friend to his own palace.

The lovely Savinnie had heard of our approach, but came not forth to receive us; she sat pale and panting within. Asthmet flew to embrace her, and, soon after, returned to conduct me to his beloved. She advanced toward me with an affectionate fervour in her mien, as it were to receive a long absent brother. She repeatedly embraced and caressed me, with the familiarity of an old acquaintance, while Asthmet's aspect glowed, and his eyes sparkled with delight. Welcome, O, welcome, she cried, thou dear preserver of Savinnie! preserver of more than life, of more than the world's whole wealth in her Asthmet!

She

She then withdrew, to change her mourning weeds for the apparel of festivity ; and, in an hour she returned, preceded by a banquet, and doubling the day as well by the lustre of her eyes and smiles, as by the constellation of gems in which she broke upon us.

I avow to you, madam, I know no consideration, merely lucrative, which I would have taken in exchange of the delight my soul enjoyed in the society of that royal and incomparable pair. My senses and sentiments grew daily more enlarged, more exalted, more refined, while I was with them. Their looks spoke to me, and before me, a language till then unknown, a new intercourse of delicate and cordial intelligence : and I trust they have improved me into a better friend, and a better lover, than I, otherwise, should have been to the end of my days.

During our repast, Asthmet glanced at his bride, and, turning to me, said, You see, my friend, we have got but the one lady at table ; but that is not the case with my brother potentates in these regions ; they indulge their erring ap-
petites

petites in a number of women, whom they possess, it is true, but cannot be said to enjoy. Their utmost gratification never passes the stinted and starved limits of sense; friendship flies their board; love is a stranger to their bed; and, in the midst of their warmest caresses, the heart is cold and insensible. Know you the reason of this, my Felix? It is because not one among them is blessed with a Savinnè; is blessed, as I am, with a first, and a last, an only, and ever beloved, who, like a burning glass, gathers and centers in herself the radiance and graces of woman-kind.

She answered not, but blushed and bowed, and smiled ineffable sweetness and gratitude upon him. She then turned to me, and asked, Have you not also a wife, my brother? Yes madam, I answered, a very distant but a very dear one indeed; and I think she will hereafter be dearer to me than ever, as she has the honour, in a measure, to resemble your royal highness. Will you do me the favour then, says she, to present my sister-likeness with this token of my love? So saying, she took the diamond feather from her hair, and gave it into
my

my hand. I rose, bowed upon it, and, wrapping my handkerchief about it, put it into my bosom.

I then recollected I had a gold repeater about me, which captain Jennison had intended for some great lady in India. The workmanship was highly finished, and it was curiously embossed with figures that represented the affecting story of Abradatas and Panthea.

I took it forth with joy, and offered to shew the princess the several uses and management of the internal machinery. She considered it with much delight, and acknowledged that her own watch, though accounted a fine one, was not comparable to it. She then enquired the meaning of the figures on the case; and, when I had told her the sad tale, she wept awhile, and suddenly cried, Ah, if we had not found such a friend in such a noble enemy, this must also have been the wretched fate of Savinnid!

And pray, sir, added she, at what price do you value this precious little machine? Even at
the

the price of your acceptance, madam ; I will take no other value, nothing less in exchange. I will accept it, says she, since I find you are resolved that we shall continue your debtors ; but then I must not farther impoverish you, by any presents on my part.

During the happy week in which I made my abode with my princely friends, I do not remember to have seen, between them, a single instance of those raptures that are supposed to be the proofs, as well as effects of a mutual passion ; and yet I am persuaded, that, since the first pair in paradise, no two were ever united by a dearer or fonder affection. But the tumults of their passion, without losing of their fervour, had subsided into a solid and smiling serenity. You saw nothing, indeed, of their personal caresses, or of that open dalliance to which young people are accustomed, who would make a parade of their fondness for each other : but then they did, and looked, a perpetuity of kind and tender things ; their very breath was the breath of love ; and their souls, at every glance, seemed to say to each other, I cannot be happy, I cannot exist without you.

I remember I once asked the princess, how she could suffer her Asthmét to go to the wars, when it was evidently impossible for her to survive him ? Because, said she, I loved his glory more than I loved my own life.

At length, the time of separation, from those my dear friends was at hand ; and the reflection, that, in all likelihood, I should never see them again, sunk, as a weight of lead, to the bottom of my heart.

On the morning of my departure, while we sat together at breakfast, we constrained ourselves to assume an air of easy converse and unconcern. But, when we rose to bid the last adieu, affectation would no longer pass, all utterance was instantly stopt, and, turning from each other, we broke into tears—till, finding there would be no end of weeping, I seized on the hand of the incomparable Savinnicè, and pressed it to my lips ; I then strained Asthmét in a repeated but silent embrace, and, tearing myself away, I mounted my horse, and moved on slow and heavily, in the rear of my company.

On

On the fall of the fourth night, as I sat melancholy in my tent, an attendant brought me word, that three couriers had just arrived with a message from prince Asthmet. I instantly ordered them to be conducted in, and the first entered, bowing, and presented me with a letter. I kissed the signet of my friend, and, breaking it open, read :

“ The soul of Asthmet, to the beloved soul of
 “ his Felix, sends dearest and kindest greetings.
 “ You conquered me in the field ; but you must
 “ not prevail in all things, you must not conquer
 “ me in generosity : you have already too much
 “ piqued both my pride and my friendship on
 “ that head. I conjure you then to accept,
 “ from your Asthmet and your Savinnicè, the
 “ tokens that they send you of their ever during
 “ love. I swear, by the great prophet whom you
 “ worship and I revere, should you return our of-
 “ ferings, I will cast them, together, into the
 “ depths of the Jumna.——Alas, why are we
 “ Sundered ! were not our hearts formed for eter-
 “ nal affinity ? may not you with your beloved,
 “ yet return to your Asthmet and his beloved,
 “ and double our happiness by dividing our
 posses-

“possessions ? Sweet prospect ! the bare possibi-
 “ty how full of delight ! but, if such a blessing
 “is not in store for Asthmet Ally upon earth,
 “O, may he live, in spite of death, to meet his
 “Felix and his Savinnè in the paradise of one
 “of our prophets ! he will otherwise be depriv-
 “ed of his two capital enjoyments ; the two
 “blessings, without which heaven itself would
 “be tasteless, the blessing of friendship, and
 “the blessing of love.”

P. S. “The bearer is allied to me in ho-
 “nour, as in blood ; he will deliver you the
 “keys.”

After I had moistened the paper awhile with
 my tears, I raised my eyes to the messenger,
 and beheld a youth of a noble presence, in rich
 and gay attire, agreeable to his years. I strait
 rose, and eagerly caught him in my arms. Wel-
 come, welcome, I cried, to the bosom of Felix !
 The kinsman of my Asthmet is a portion of
 myself.

He received my careffes with modesty and re-
 spect ; then, beckoning to two attendants, he
 Vol. I. X took

took a small casket from one, and ordered the other to set down a little chest with which he seemed heavy laden. Here are the keys, my lord, said he, will you be pleased to examine what these covers contain? No matter, for the present, said I; they contain tokens of regard from Afthmet and Savinniè, and that to me is abundant treasure.

I then ordered a repast of such matters as my little camp afforded; and, after supper, I presented my young friend with a sword of English fabric; the mountain was of polished steel, curiously pierced, and inlaid with silver. His eyes sparkled with pleasure as he received it from me, and gracefully bowing, he said, For the sake of the giver, I promise that this shall never be drawn against one of his nation.

After some farther chat, and a flask of Cape wine to the healths of the royal pair, I conducted my guest to his bed, and wished him repose. I then returned and examined the contents of his embassy. I first opened the chest, and stood astonished at the mass of treasure comprised in so small a compass; it was filled with ingots of
pure

pure gold, to about an hundred pounds in weight: but on opening the casket, whereon the name of Savinnè was engraved, I was again more astonished at the size and lustre of the diamonds and other gems of price; and I was actually affected at the loss that my friends must have sustained, by the exuberance of their bounty to me.

Overwhelmed, and melted down by the fervour of my gratitude and affection for them, I took pen and paper, and sat down to write my acknowledgments. Accordingly I wrote and tore, and again wrote and tore away, as I could not find expressions any way adequate to my sentiments. At length I resolved that something should pass, and so I concluded a letter of I know not what; for, as I could not please myself, I do not remember a syllable of the matter.

Thus was God pleased to pour upon me a weight of wealth, by means wholly unexpected, unsought, and unlooked for; and this merely, I suppose, because I never aimed a stroke at the fallen, the wounded, or unresisting, in battle;
neither

neither assisted in oppression, nor gleaned any thing from desolation ; nor put my hand to the pillage of the peaceful, or the afflicted.

The next morning, after a strait embrace, my guest and I set out on opposite roads. At length I arrived safe at the town of Madras ; and, within a few following weeks, having dispatched my affairs in India, I shipped myself and all my treasures on board the Triton, for old England.

The moment I landed, I hastened to the place of our former abode, my heart palpitating and intermitting all the way ; now exulting at the approach of a blessed meeting with my Letty and her little ones ; and again depressed in the dread of what might have happened during the years of my absence.

When I reached the well known house, I found it shut up ; and, on enquiring among the neighbours, I could not hear a name, or set my longing eyes on any face that I knew. So swift are the movements in human life, and
so

so quickly do we pass away, either in, or out of this world !

A perfect silence, however, with respect to evil accidents, left some life for hope ; and I turned my thoughts to every expedient that might serve to recover my lost ewe and her lambs.

While this was in agitation, I set about discharging my trusts and commissions from India. I first went to Redriff, and, having enquired for one Fulmer, I was pointed to a house where a crowd stood before the door.

This occasion brought, afterward, two observations to reflection : the first, that God seems to take delight in relieving his creatures, just at the crisis of their extremity, when all other means and resources have failed them ; the second, that his graciousness sheds the dews of his beneficence, and the beams of his blessing, not only on the righteous, but on those who, humanly speaking, can make out but a very slender title to his bounty.

As I approached the house, I perceived several bailiffs busy in bringing out beds and bedding, tables, chairs, and other furniture, all which they tumbled on a heap into the street.

I then went hastily up, and accosted the one who seemed president, and who grinned a horrid delight, like a demon in authority over the inflictions of the damned. Pray, what are ye about, said I? About our business, said he; go you about yours; what has fine folk to do on this side of the town?—I presume you are the landlord, and have seized these matters for rent.—You have hit it for once.—And, what is your demand?—More than you are able to pay, I fancy; it is five and thirty pounds, with costs of suit.—Here is your money, said I, counting forty pieces into his hand. And now, be so obliging as to carry all these matters back again, and replace them where you found them. There must be two words to that bargain, master, cried one of the bailiffs: we have been paid for bringing them out, but who shall pay us for taking them in again? Beside, we brought them out with a good will, it was in the way of our profession; but, to carry them
in

in again, is a matter of charity, that goes quite against the grain. If that is the case, said I, you shall be paid twice as much for doing good with an ill will, as this gentleman paid you for doing evil with a good one.

The fellows, then, set very leisurely and reluctantly about the task enjoined, protesting that the goods felt twice as heavy as before.

In the mean time, I stepped into the house, and stood awhile, unnoticed, at the door of a waste parlour.

In one corner, Fulmer, with a face of ghastly and stupified grief, stood silent and motionless; while his three eldest children, two boys and a girl, moved wailing about him, demanding, whether they were, hereafter, to lie on the bare floor, or in the street?

In another corner, the mother was seated on the ground, with her three youngest children about her weeping and clamouring for their breakfast; but she had thrust a finger into each of her ears, while the tears flowed in plenty down her wan cheeks. I

I was so affected, that, for a time, I had not power to accost them. But, on the re-entry of the bailiffs with part of the furniture, the man started, as from sleep, and asked what they were about. Why, said one of them, your brother, I suppose, is here, and has paid all your rent, and forced us to bring your effects back again.

Hereupon, the woman, hastily rising, clapped her hands and cried, then all is out ! I dreamed, last night, that captain Jennison came, dropping wet, from the Indies, and poured a whole hat full of money into my lap. You are right, madam, said I, it is, indeed, your dear brother, and my honoured friend, who sends you this seasonable relief. Here, I have brought a thousand pounds in money and bills : if ye make a prudent use of it, it shall be followed by an equal sum, perhaps by a third thousand, if I find ye have merit. Your brother perished, with the whole crew, except myself. I had the fortune, however, to save some of his effects ; and, on our last parting, he desired me, if I survived, to give you this money.

Never was transport equal to theirs. They kneeled on either side, clasped and kissed my hands,

hands and my feet, and gave all external proofs of inexpressible gratitude.

Within three days, however, while I was making up the second thousand pounds, which I intended to take to them, I was served, at their suit, with a citation from Doctors Commons.

I believe, madam, there is nothing so grating to a generous mind, as injurious returns for the offices of beneficence. But I consoled myself, the best I could, with the integrity of my own intentions ; perhaps, also, with a short suggestion of revenge, knowing how effectually it was in my power to defeat their attack.

Immediately I engaged a proctor and advocate, to whom I produced the captain's will, acknowledged and endorsed by the council of Fort St. George. What, cried my advocate as he stood weighing the words, have you already given these wretches a thousand pounds ? I have, said I, and intend them a much larger sum.—Why, that is the very utmost of the testator's bequest, and only to be given in such portions as you shall think they merit. I protest I
would

would not have given them a single six-pence. How could you, Sir, how could you be so much overseen? Because, said I, I chuse to stand on the surer side of justice; and, whatever the captain's partiality might be to his friend, I think those of his blood better entitled to his substance. A strange man, a strange man! he exclaimed, and shrugged up his shoulders.

After a short hearing, I cast the appellants with costs; and on the following day, they came to my lodgings. They again fell on their knees, acknowledged their baseness, and, with feigned tears and servile abasements, prayed me to lay aside my resentment. Go, said I, I know ye now; ye never shall finger a shilling more from me. But, your children have not offended. I will settle the two thousand pounds, I mentioned, upon them, to be paid, in due dividends, with interest, to each of them, on the days of their coming to age respectively.

Thus, madam, you have heard the return that I met with from the family of the Fulmers. Neither was I more successful in my other commissions.

I was at much trouble in enquiring out the nearest relations of the several officers of our ship's company, and thereupon surrendered to them the respective chests formerly mentioned. But, in the general, they questioned and eyed me with looks of dark suspicion, as though I had reserved the larger portion to myself.

Particularly the brother of our ship's carpenter, came one day to my lodgings, and bluffly desired me to give him up the rest of his brother's effects. Ungrateful wretch, said I, I am sorry that I put myself to the cost and trouble of procuring what I have done for you. Villain, he cried, and grappled at me, do me justice this minute, or I will have your blood ! But giving him a chuck and a trip, I cast him on his back, and having caned him roundly I kicked him out of doors. He afterwards swore to several, that he believed me to be a man of honour ; and whenever we met, he saluted me with his hat and a smile.

Here my worthy friend Felix closed the history of his adventures. I protest, Mr. Turney, said I, you have met with ingratitude, sufficient to put a check and restraint on all your future bene-

benevolence. A sure method, he cried, of adding poison to the weapons that others level at me ! he who deducts from my humanity, despoils me indeed.

And pray, my good friend, if I am not over-curious, what may be the amount of your whole wealth think you ?—Upwards of thirty thousand pounds, madam. A great sum indeed ! what do you propose to do with it ?—That is a question, madam, which, as yet, I am no way qualified to answer. At present, I find it an encumbrance ; I feel uneasy and discontented under it ; it is the heaviest burden sure that ever lay on my spirits ! could I find any prudent person who would take myself and my family and my money off my hands, I think I should be the easiest and happiest man upon earth. For first, as soon as it shall be known that I have this mass of wealth, I shall be plagued and pestered to death, with flatteries that I loath, and respects that I abominate. For, I am a man of a plain and loving nature ; I like to consort with my like ; and my soul turns from the sounds and shews of parade, as a hungry man would turn from whipped syllabubs and creamed bubbles, to more substantial nourish-

nourishment. If there is, indeed, that value in money which people are apt to think, I am, surely, the unfittest in the world to be entrusted with the treasure. Should I attempt to dispose of it to the worthiest of all uses, that of supplying the wants of the needy, I am sensible that I am too credulous and weak hearted to discern the proper objects; and I should ever be obvious to the practices of impostors. Tell me then, my dearest lady, what would you advise me to do in this my greatest strait?

Let me see, Mr. Turney. Thirty thousand pounds, as I take it, will purchase for you about a thousand pounds a year; not in whipped syllabubs, neither in uncertain seas; but in stable terra firma, that will admit of mears and bounds. There, like the blessed patriarchs, you may dwell in your Canaan, and drink of your own vintage, and eat of your own fruits, and feed the hungry and cloath the naked from your own herds and flocks. There like father Abraham, you may be favoured with the society and converse of angels, and have your God, himself, much nearer than at your side, even seated in your bosom, and in your heart. This is the state, good Felix, after

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which

which the poets and philosophers have so often languished. Even avarice and ambition propose it to themselves, as a reward for all their labours; the place of final repose! But, when any happened to arrive, they knew not the scenes of their former imaginations; they found themselves strangers and aliens therein. For innocence and virtue are the only masters of ceremonies for introducing mortality into the seats of peace.

It is the voice of an angel, exclaimed Felix in a transport, of an angel, the sent of God! I will obey it directly. Is your father living, Letty?—He is, my love, but not in his former habitation. He is now settled in his new parish, the late gift of our lady here.—Then let us go, my Letty, and fix the place of our little Eden, near, or with your old parents. And I will go in search of my old parents also; that all of us, under our God, may be gathered into one flock, one family, and one household.

It now began to grow late, and I bid adieu to my friends, with just as much of day left as would serve to shew me home. The sconces were lighted before I got out of the chariot and into the arms of my parents.

What

What is the matter, sir? what is the matter, my dearest madam? you seem to look with surprise and a kind of strangeness upon me. Where, in the world, JULIET, cried my father, could you get money enough for making such costly markets?—What money, sir, what markets can you mean? Heyday, he exclaimed, at this rate you may get married too, without knowing any thing of the matter! but, step to the glass, my love, and that will interpret.

I did, as desired; and at the first glance of my own glittering image, ah! I screamed, it is certainly the diamond feather of the princess Savinnè. It is indeed, cried my father, fit for none, save a princess, or a JULIET, to wear.

O sir, O madam, I have the strangest things to tell ye! Sure, the father of our little Emily, Mr. Turney, is returned from the East Indies. He, alone, survived the wreck. A worthy fellow he is, a sweet fellow, on my word. He is returned vastly rich.—He was the very man, whom I took in my chariot to Highgate this morning.—He thought his wife and children dead, or lost for ever.—I undeceived him on the way.

way.—Such a scene, such an interview!—I fear I never shall have patience to proceed leisurely in the story.—But, let me have my coffee, that I may prepare for your entertainment.—Our Emily too, with your good leave, must be present, that her gentle eye may melt over the adventures of her father.—O,—now I remember, that, a little before I took my leave, Mr. Turney beckoned his wife to the door for a moment: she then took exceptions to the fit of my cap; and, while she pretended to adjust it, she must certainly have stuck this feather in my hair.

I fancy, JULIET, said the COUNTESS, that this renowned feather is the same that now casts its bright water into my eye.—It is indeed, madam. I would not give the good people the mortification of returning it? but I will do quite as honestly, I will make up the value in full to their Emily.

I should never be tired, my JULIET, of that extraordinary family, so marked and distinguished, too, by such uncommon providences. Methinks I accompany your Felix and his Letty to her parents, to his parents, and their respective

tive connections. I hang over their happy meetings ; I partake in their rural festivities. Have you heard any thing farther of them ?— I have, madam.—But there is the story, also, of your father's fair Magdalen, which you promised to tell me.—With your permission, dearest madam, I will, for awhile, suspend both the one and the other. I have to talk of matters, of a nature more nearly interesting and touching to myself. The morning, if you please, shall open a new scene of things.

Lady CRANFIELD, all impatient to hear of matters more concerning to her favourite than any yet recited, hastened breakfast, and sipped her tea as hot as possible. When casting around a mournful look, and heaving a doubled sigh, miss GRENVILLE began.

Some weeks after the departure of my Emily with her parents, I was sitting with my mother in the street parlour, and placing the cups for breakfast, when a young stranger came to the house, and stood, bashfully hesitating, before the door.

My father, in passing through the hall, was the first who noticed him ; and I heard every word distinctly, as the door stood open.

Have you any commands with me, sir ?—I am, please your honour, a desolate stranger who seek employment.—And, pray, what can you do ?—Little or nothing, I confess, that the world will think of value. I can soften the soul by music, enlarge it by philosophy, or elevate it by faith : but who will pay me, for matters that are held in contempt ?—Are you a foreigner ? My complexion, sir, is foreign ; the sun of every climate has contributed to its dye.—You have travelled then, it seems.—All over Europe, sir : I was compelled thereto by a very melancholy motive ; I wanted to get away from myself.

That stroke, my dear madam, went to my heart, I confess ! So did his subsequent sentiments, the tone of his accents, and the cadence of his voice ; though I could form no adequate idea of his person.

I am sorry, said my father, for the misfortunes of so very young a man. You are not yet turned
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ed of thirty, as I take it.—I am not.—Well fir, you shall not want employment. I have taken a liking to you. You shall first be our companion ; and thereafter, as you merit, the friend of the family. You shall tell us of foreign manners, foreign fashions, and foreign laws. As also what you have noticed, during your travels, respecting the original lessons which the great antients have left us, in architecture, sculpture, painting, and so forth.—You much overrate my talents, worthy fir. I shall fall vastly short of your expectations on those heads ; they made no part of my study or enquiry. When I found it impossible to leave a very woful remembrance behind me, I made it the whole business and bent of my travels to discover and know myself, by investigating the hearts of others.—Ah, cried my father, the most interesting and divine of all human sciences ! But pray, what progress have you made in your intellectual tour ?—Some proficiency, fir ; but I have not been able, as a second Alexander, to over-run and subdue the whole world of man in so very short a space. Well fir, if you will permit us to review, with you, the scenes you have passed, we will do something more than barely defray your expences by the way.

way. What are your terms, my friend? I am told you are a man of a generous disposition; for that reason I shall not leave any thing to yourself so long as we agree, you must pay me at the rate of a hundred pounds a year.—I will double it with pleasure.—There it is now; did not I tell you that you were not to be trusted with yourself? No, sir, I will take no more than the value of my labours; your bounty, for once, shall know its bounds.

Here again, I was deeply struck with the novelty of this manner of thinking and acting. I grew quite impatient to know who and what this phænomenon should be; and I found myself, I knew not why, some way connected with him, and interested in him.

At length my father introduced him, saying, My wife, sir!—and my daughter!—whereupon my mother and I arose to salute him: but he bowed, low and distant, and bashfully withdrew to a chair that stood aloof.

What is the matter, said my tender father? I hope you are not taken ill; you seem to be under
some

some agitation.—A small touch of my old ague, sir ; it will soon be over.—A dish of tea, sir, said my mother, with a few of my saffron drops, will relieve you ; pray, come to table.

He obeyed, with a trepid motion, and down-cast eyes, not once raising them to the side where my mother and I sat. This gave me an opportunity of examining him at leisure. His dress was not that of poverty ; it was clean and costly, though very plain. His complexion was of the Jewish olive, and his brows large and dark. His stature was tall and graceful, his legs something bowed, and the sight was grieved by a rise between the shoulders. But, when he looked abroad, his eyes rose in glory from under the clouds of his brows ; and his gentle words, like flaky snow in the day of the sun, melted as they fell and sunk into the soul.

Very formidable, on my word, with all his defects, cried the COUNTESS ! but, I suppose he came on purpose to attempt your heart, and to take it by sap and secret mining. Alas, no madam, said miss GRENVILLE, as your ladyship shall hear. Whatever his impenetrable intentions

ons might be, they could not possibly aim at my person or my heart ; for, as soon as he found he had made a conquest of it, he suddenly forsook me. But, to my story.

I am glad, sir, said my father, to see you look better and more composed. I thank you, sir, said the stranger, casting his eyes with a short but expressive glance upon him.—Your name, as I think you told me, is Thomason. The only name, sir, by which I have gone throughout my pilgrimage ; for I have long since disavowed the name that I derived from unnatural parents.—I remember, continued my father, that you hinted at your skill in music ; but I fear we have got no instrument in the house. My girl here might have been a great proficient by this ; but she used to weep over her instruments, and so I took them from her. The saving of her life is quite sufficient to us ; in our eye it is every grace and every accomplishment. An over delicate frame and a malady on her mind of many years perseverance, scarce admitted a cure from air and exercise, and a continued attention to the offices of her own benevolent heart.

I have, fir, said Mr. Thomafon, a little trifle in my pocket, that has been the prating companion of all my travels. He thereupon took out fome small pieces of ivory, and having fitted them together, he put them to his lip.

In that very instant, all the fongsters of the grove feemed collected under the beam of the breaking out fun, pouring forth the fenfations and joys of their little hearts, in a profufion of wild and complicated harmony.

After a while, he fufpended the chearfulnefs of his notes, and came to the love-lorn fong of the nightingale. But, O, fuch rifings and fallings ; warblings, thrillings, and pauses ! fuch fwellings, and fighings, and heart-breaking complaints ! Here lay, evidently, his mafter-ftain ; fuch an expreffion and pouring out of the ftate of his own foul, as fhewed him to be the man of forrow, the beloved of grief.

I could fit no longer. I rofe haftily and went to the window, to conceal my emotion. On my rifing the mufic ceafed ; and compofing myfelf, I foon after returned to the company.

My

My father, then, taking up the little orator that had discoursed such sweet matters, paused over it, and said : Is it possible that such a nimble implement as this, like the apostles of old, should speak the language of all nations, and be apprehended by the understandings and hearts of all mankind ? I have been myself a practitioner, but never, till now, never did I discover what true music was. It is not accord nor concord, neither symphony nor harmony ; though these are aptly the handmaids and ministers thereof. It is the tuning and modulation of the sounds and expressions of nature, exciting answerable sensations, and sentiments within us.

For instance ; the sounds of rolling thunder, and the roaring of beasts in the forest, are naturally threatening and alarming to all hearers. The bleating of the lamb is the voice of helpless innocence, the cooing of the turtle is the soothing voice of love. The chuckling of the infant, and the laughter of the adult, are universally understood to be expressions of merriment and delight in the utterers. And the sighs of the afflicted, and the groans of the dying, need no words to tell us the state of their distress.

Our

Our countryman Dryden, in his capital composition on St. Cecilia's day, makes Timotheus apply, not to the fancy or judgment, but merely to the passions of the great Alexander. By quick transitions of still varying and new modulated measures, he informs, changes, and governs the spirit of his master. Now exalting, now depressing; now cheering, now saddening; now martially rousing, now touchingly melting; now soothing to love, now kindling to vengeance; he controuls and rules, at his pleasure, the man who ruled the world.

A musician, sir, said Mr. Thomason, ought to be as an orator: if he would affect, he should also be affected; his spirit must be in his subject, or he will never transfuse his subject into the spirit of others.

I have been often astonished, said my mother, at the vast variety of composition, of which seven simple notes are susceptible. Is there a necessity, sir, for just so many and no more? Might not God, as well, have instituted seventeen, or seven thousand notes, for the greater capacity of variation?

No madam, said Mr. Thomason. As God, of necessity, is free, his infinite wisdom always choses to shew forth his infinite power by the simplest and fewest means: to what end, then, should he add to the number, if the seven, already instituted, are capable of as perfect harmony, and as endless a variety, as seventeen millions could possibly have been? But, I will endeavour to give you a short glimpse of the power and mystery of this matter.

From the fundamental Unit of God arises his mystical number Three; and from his mystical Three arises his consummating number Seven; and by seven times his number Seven, and so on, he rules and conducts all the seasons, and ages, revolutions, and events, that ever shall come to pass, till time shall be no more, and all numbers shall be again resolved into their original Unit.

Here, madam, it is particularly deserving of remark, that the seven constituent notes, in music, are correspondent and answerable to the seven days of the week, the seven planets in the heavens, and the seven spirits of God mentioned in
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the Apocalypse. A spirit of God lives in each constituent note ; and hence it comes to pass, that, when an artist is so happy as to hit upon a measure nearly consonant to the sound or sentiment divinely latent therein, the sensation it excites in the hearers arises to a rapture that is almost insufferable !

I remember, sir, said my mother, when Mr. GRENVILLE questioned you, something abruptly, respecting your abilities, you mentioned philosophy. Pray, what is philosophy ? I am told that the term signifies “ the love of wisdom ; ” but I have not rightly learned what the thing itself is.

Philosophy, madam, is no other than COMMON SENSE improved by experience and observation ; and reduced into maxims, by reflection and inference, for our better conduct in life.

Will you be pleased, sir, to give us an instance ?—All people, madam, are in the nature of merchants, going about, seeking and searching, bartering and trafficking, for “ the pearl of
“ mighty

“mighty price,” denominated HAPPINESS. Now, he who best understands the value of what he gives and what he gains, and, who consequently makes the best bargain, is unquestionably the greatest philosopher.

The general misfortune, however, is, that people think themselves sufficient to this most important of all professions, without serving an apprenticeship, or deriving any advantage from the experience or example, the folly or prudence, the success or damage of others.

Hence it comes to pass, that by false estimates of things, by numberless impositions, by mistaking glitter for gold, and show for signification, most people are bankrupt and beggared before they are aware ; and, Ixion like, find a cloud within their caresses, in the place of the divinity they proposed to embrace.

Such persons, you must allow, could not have been philosophers. The sole province of philosophy is, to teach us the right and relative estimate of things ; to teach us, not to barter commodities that are durable for such as are corruptible,

tible, neither a permanent futurity for present gratification ; to teach us, not to barter commodities that are internal, and make a part of ourselves, for any thing external to us or independent of us.

Now, madam, life and health, though transitory and precarious, ought not to be bartered for all the treasures and pleasures that this world can confer ; because life and health constitute a part of ourselves, and the world's whole wealth cannot recal the one or purchase the other. And yet, we see millions of sacrificers to intemperance and sensuality, who daily fall the miserable victims of a false pursuit after happiness.

Again, madam, the philosophers of antiquity affirm, with great appearance of truth, and strength of Argument, that we have a principle of existence within us, infinitely more intimate, more valuable and durable, than this expanse of heaven and earth, this enclosure of flesh and blood, or any species of life and health that can be subject to mortality : that this principle of

existence is of divine original, incorruptible, unperishable ; a fount that must flow for ever, a flame that cannot be extinguished : that the virtues are its treasures, its enjoyment, its beauty, and illumination : that these constitute the man ; all that can properly or inherently be denominated himself, and all that deserves his cultivation, his regard, or attention : and, that the man of virtue is allied and equal to the Godhead, and should stand secure and nassailable amidst the wreck of the universe.

Thus far stretches the doctrine of pagan philosophy ; and, conformably thereto, its votaries rejected the world, with all its enjoyments, and even boasted a superiority over poverty, calamity, pain, sickness, and death.

But if, to this, we should add something of that REDEEMING WORD, which brought life and immortality to the fulness of their light, and the weight of their glory ; all, that is temporal or transitory, fades and vanishes away, in the comparison and barter with any article that is eternal : the goods of this world are no longer to be relished ; the evils of this world are no longer

ger to be feared : the present is sunk and lost in the greatness of the future ; and possession is cast behind us, in reaching after the immensity of that for which we hope. Nothing becomes considerable, nothing of estimation, save so far as it conduces to the purchase or acquisition of some article or degree of goodness ; some of those benevolences, those charities, those affections, those elegancies of elevated humanity, which the great apostle to the Gentiles prefers even to the Graces of Faith and of Hope ; and which, he says, “ cannot fail,” but must endure for ever, when Faith is swallowed up of Vision, and Hope of Enjoyment.

Whosoever, therefore, through any worldly, lucrative or selfish consideration, shall commit or omit any thing, so as to cool the fervour, or check the expansion of any of the charities, those movements of divinity within his own bosom ; he shall be found an unhappy merchant, who bartered millions for a mite, and, to his own infinite loss, abridged the value and dimmed the polish of those living pearls, that were to have constituted his crown throughout eternity.

Wonderful

Wonderful youth ! exclaimed my father, how have you contrived to double the years of Nestor within the span of your minority ?—But I see that I offend ; I will do so no more ; I will, hereafter, suppress the expressions of my esteem.

My mother, now, proposed a walk in the gardens ; and the more this astonishing stranger became acquainted with his new friends, the more he grew upon us in every grace and accomplishment that could charm or attach us to him.

Our customary excursions were now wholly suspended ; we shut ourselves in from all visits of ceremony ; we grudged even the necessary avocations of business. He stole us, insensibly, far into the night ; and yet we welcomed the early morn, on expectation of his society.

Within a few weeks, my father recommended it to Mr. Thomason to instruct me in such parts of ancient history as he should judge to be matter of improvement or ornament to one of my sex and condition.

Alas,

Alas, sir, said the young sage, what scenes of history can I open to miss GRENVILLE, that will not contain in them something shocking to her humanity, or disgustful to her virtue?

Had this world been unpropertied; had it been alike communicable to all; could men have subsisted on the elements of light, and air, and streams flowing obvious to every lip; I think evil could not have prevailed so universally as it has done. But, as the goods of this world are subject to appropriation; as they are capable of division, distinction, assumption, and enclosure; they are become the baneful and deadly roots of every species of evil, that hath arisen, spread, and propagated throughout the earth. Hence, avarice, envy, hatred, rancour, rapine, murder, and all the direful train of atrocious malignities that have turned the world, from the beginning, into a wide "Aceldama," a field of blood and carnage.

In truth, the history of the world is little other than the history of the first Cain, multiplied, and daily renewing and repeating the butchery of his brethren. It is the history of these, raven-
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ing and rending, from those, the little they possess, that much might have more, and that each might have all; while brother grudges to brother the transient pittance of a miserable mortality; and half the species is employed in driving and dispatching the other half from existence, that their selves might be left alone upon the earth, the solitary possessors of properties that must quickly elude their own hold, properties that no gripe could ever retain.

Think, sir, that you behold the gloomy powers of malevolence mixing in all this bustle, hovering over the heads of the wretched race of man, scoffing at the folly of their avarice, fomenting and enflaming the madness of their ambition; listening with horrid delight to the shrieks and groans of sacked cities, and snuffing up the stench of the scattered limbs and reeking entrails of millions of human carcasses that bestrow the field of battle.

Yet, these very deeds, so detestable to God, so everfive of humanity, and grateful to devils alone, these are the deeds, I say, deemed worthy of being engraved in brass and marble,
 worthy

worthy of being recorded and treasured up in archives, of being celebrated by orators, recited by historians, and sung by bards.

I protest, Mr. Thomason, said my father, I never saw this matter in the same light before ; and yet I am convinced, that it is the very light in which it ought to be beheld. But I was carried down the stream of universal prejudice ; and like others, ascribed unmerited honours and renown to persons and actions alone deserving of infamy. In truth, I am apt to think, that man has a natural propensity to pay deference to power however abused ; and to applaud strength and courage however misapplied, provided they are not exercised to his own immediate damage. But tell me, my young friend, does history afford no exceptions to your general description ? Do you remember of no nation, - no people who were peaceable, who were equitable and humane ?

Not any indeed, sir, save such as are mentioned in the fabulous accounts of “ golden ages, “ Utopias, happy islands,” and so forth. Even those refined and learned states, who accounted the rest of the world for barbarians, who boasted

ed themselves the polishers of manners, the promoters of arts, and the patrons of liberty, yet never allowed that liberty to any whom their power could bring under subjection. When they ceased to be employed in foreign warfare, they were rent by intestine dissension and tumult; and, in the want of other objects, turned their arms against each other. They were manslayers by profession, by education, by birth. And, though they were celebrated as adepts in science and philosophy, the talkers over of sentiment and human refinements; yet, in the day of blood and general desolation, we rarely find any difference between them and the illiberal barbarians. Grey hairs, and infancy, and even the helpless sex, whom all, deserving the title of manhood, are appointed to protect, fell beneath the unsparing sword of their savage-hearted soldiery.

You must allow, however, my good Mr. Thomason, that several of those free states had their national virtues, particularly that of patriotism, superior to any republics now known upon earth.

I do allow it, honoured sir. The circle of modern patriotism rarely reaches beyond our family, or at farthest, beyond our party : whereas the circle of ancient patriotism encompassed all the families, denominated COUNTRY, as though they had been one family, one household, one self.

But, how much more nobly, more divinely, would they have acted, had any of those states stretched their circle of patriotism, as far as humanity ought to have interested and assisted them to the interests of mankind ! Had they gone forth in blessings on all the nations around them ; had they supported the oppressed, assisted the feeble, pulled down the proud, lifted up the fallen, and lent their warfare to the peaceable ; they would have interested the circling powers in their own power and interest, and they would have become the most prosperous and durable state that ever did or shall subsist within the circuit of the moon.

I shall not however, sir, refuse to your favourite states any part of their real merits, which I acknowledge, in some instances, to have been

great, transcendent, astonishing! Over and above the national virtue of patriotism, which you mentioned, the Spartans, for five hundred years, embraced a voluntary poverty; and, during the period of that poverty, accumulated those riches of inexhaustible renown, which has exalted their memory, through all ages, above all nations.

The Romans, in like manner, for nearly the same term, embraced and adhered to the kindred, and national virtue of temperance, as their women did to the national virtue of chastity; and that period, also, comprised their illustrious Galaxy of heroes and respectable dames, that shall shine unrivalled, in the firmament of history, to endless ages.

If it comes to be enquired how this came to pass, I profess I cannot account, if it was not, that, in the commencement and minority of those singular states, some eminent spirits, such as Lycurgus and Numa, were destined to arise, who, by precept, and still more by their respected examples, brought the said admirable virtues into vogue and general practice; and, when any
species

species of virtue happens to be the fashion, who will dare to step forth in favour of the opposite vice? Death itself is not more ungrateful to the human feelings, than to be rejected and despised, and fingered at by the Society among whom we dwell. Alcibiades, though the most sensual and dissolute debauchee of the age, yet, at Sparta, appeared to relish their black broth above all dainties. And I am persuaded, that our ladies of rank, could they confine themselves to the bed of their nuptial engagements, would lead the mode in that as well as in other matters; and would set such a precedent of national virtue, as would shortly bring female continence into fashion throughout Great Britain.

Well sir, said my mother, since you admit that some parts of national history are deserving of memorial, you would oblige us by instructing our child in such passages as you yourself approve.—I will, madam, with pleasure; we will pass through the world, as bees pass through a garden over-run with rank weeds, where we will endeavour to select and treasure up the sweets, and leave the baneful and noxious to the wasps and the hornets.

Shortly

Shortly after, he entered upon his new province. In the presence of my parents, he led me from nation to nation, and age to age ; slightly and briefly treating such portions of history as were inanimate or uninteresting, but dwelling and commenting and expatiating on others ; refining and extracting hidden beauties from the barren letter ; affecting and improving the heart of every hearer ; awakening the drowsy narrative into sentiment and life ; and, like Midas, turning all he touched into gold.

On a day, as we sat together, having just closed the ancient history of Persia, he turned to me and said : The first time madam, that I had the honour of an interview with this family, a circumstance dropped from the lips of your father, that has not yet, nor, perhaps, ever will drop from my memory. We were on the subject of music, when Mr. GRENVILLE pathetically said that you used to weep over your instruments ; and added, that a malady of many years continuance lay on your mind. Ah madam, that malady, that malady ! I am a man of affliction, a member of the afflicted ; and that same malady of yours has, ever since, lain heavy upon my mind also. I

I will not, however,—it would be too presumptuous, too daring;—and yet my mere conjectures distress me more, than, possibly, the certainty itself might do.

I understand you, sir, said I; your friendship claims my confidence, and your delicacy deserves it without disguise.

I then, without farther preface, began the little history of my infant years, already so circumstantially recited to your ladyship. As I proceeded, he became more and more affected; and his emotions served to awaken mine also, and thereby to make my story the more interesting and pathetic. But, when I came to that part, where, no longer able to bear up under the absence of your son, I lay languishing and expiring upon the bed of sickness; his passion broke from him with unrestrained violence. He turned from me, he wrung his hands, he sobbed and wept without measure. I stopped, surprised and agitated; but he impatiently cried, Go on, thou consummate excellence! Go on, for heaven's sake! This is the very death, I so earnestly wished to die!

When I had finished my narration, as far as it more immediately concerned myself, he mournfully exclaimed, Ah, madam! what a woful similitude there is between the unhappy fate of your noble lover and myself! I also, in my early years, conceived a passion for a young creature, who, at that time, appeared to my fancy, and to my heart, altogether as amiable and irresistible as yourself. You saw the agonies I was under, during your description of the sufferings of a disappointed lover. You looked at me, as though you thought my sensations disinterested, generous, and truly noble.

Ah madam, you never was more mistaken; I doubt they were altogether selfish and confined. I found myself in the place of your beloved lord Tommy, while yourself reminded me of all the graces and attractions of that dear one, whose loss I have so long, so inconsolably lamented; and my soul lay extended on the rack of its former rendings.

How I pity your lover, madam! while I contemplate the object that excited his passion, I presume it must nearly have equalled my own. Mine indeed, was so excessive, that it is wonderful

ful how I survived, for a day, for an hour, the heart-piercing tidings of the death of my beloved. I must certainly have sunk under the weight of sorrows, had not heaven reserved me on purpose to shew to what an extremity human nature might suffer ; and to put to trial my submission under his bitterest dispensations.

My young mistress and I, also, were bred together ; and her regency were so predominant and absolute over my spirit, that, in order to please and render myself worthy of her, I was indefatigable in my application for all kinds of accomplishments ; and, before I arrived to the age of fifteen years, I was master of the languages, a great proficient in music and natural philosophy, and conversant in the history of all nations, except my own. Vain accomplishments, vain purposes, how severely defeated ?

My father, like the parents of your unhappy admirer, was a person of pride and affluence, and on an intimation of the violence of my propensity to the fair star of my attraction, he had me suddenly seized and conveyed out of the kingdom, with orders that I should not be suffered
to

to correspond with any person, or even be allowed the use of pen and paper.

An idea of the pangs endured, on the tearing away of a limb from its congenial body, may give some notion of what I suffered in the separation.

I conceived an irreconcilable aversion to the author of my birth : I even dared to call to question the great author of existence. As I perceived that I was a prisoner in the midst of those who accompanied me, I regarded them with a gloomy and speechless detestation, nor deigned to intimate my wants by word or sign to my attendants.

They still persisted, however, to hurry me from stage to stage. Ah, I would say to myself, whither away do these people bear me so fast? My heart is sunk, my head is dizzy; all is sickness and confusion within me and about me! Why in such haste, my father, to drive your son from existence? Time, space, motion, what are ye? Wherein have my fair one and I so grievously offended ye? wherefore do ye assist
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the savage purposes of him who begot me?
And Thou who art over all, art Thou also become the enemy of innocence and love?

I was so totally absorbed in my sorrows, that I gave no kind of attention to any persons or places through which we passed. But, in some nights after our landing in France, or Flanders, I know not which, a messenger arrived, dispatch, with tidings that I was at liberty to return; for that the object of my affections, and of my father's displeasure, was now no more.

Instantly, as I deemed, the world sunk from under me, and all nature seemed to darken and vanish from about me.

I know not for how many weeks, or months, I lay in a state of insensibility or stupified delirium; neither can I conjecture by what means my life was sustained; as no trace remains on my memory of any thing that happened during that oblivious season.

At

At length I awoke to a state of horrible perception, and a flood of poignant recollections poured in upon me from all sides.

It was night, darkness covered me; and, within me, hope was dead, and shut up from the prospect of any future dawning. The world was lost, was totally annihilated to me; and I wished to be lost and annihilated to the world.

I arose, dressed, and got out I know not how, and walked feebly on, I knew not whither. As the day opened, I perceived a little village before me; and labouring slowly towards it, I called at the first cottage, and, entering, begged them, in charity, to shew me to a bed. They observed that I was pale and faint, and a kindly looking woman took me under the arm,

As she led me along, my eye turned to her countenance, and I perceived she was in tears. Don't weep for me, my good mistress, said I; I am too insignificant to deserve the regard of any one breathing. Alas, master, she cried,
it.

it is not for you alone ; it is for myself, and my little ones, that my tears are taught to flow. You only serve to remind me, that our case is a common case ; and that all who are born of woman, are born to woe.

She then laid me down and covered me up, and I slept as they told me, above twenty hours, and did not awaken till the following day. Blessed sleep, said I, thou only balm of wounded minds, thou only friend of the afflicted ! O, that thou mightest continue for ever ! Cut off, as I am, from the possibility of enjoyment, thou yet canst sink me down in a peaceful forgetfulness ; and suspend, for a season, the bitterness of recollection.

However disgusted the mind may be with the world, and averse to every craving and call of the flesh ; nature will yet assert her reign over the grosser part of our composition ; and, in the midst of a misery that wished to be dissolved, I felt an intense hunger that wished to be gratified.

I then prayed my good hostess to let me have something to eat ; and she hastened and brought me a large cut of bread and a vessel of new milk. While I eat, she looked eagerly and mournfully upon me ; and, as soon as I was satisfied ; My dear child, said she, I was loth to disturb your meal by telling you, that this was the last sup of milk that I and my children are ever likely to have. Why, what is the matter, my good mother ? Alas, she cried, my two cows, the whole of my worldly substance, are this miserable day to be sold for the rent. And pray, what may be the amount of what you owe ? About a hundred livers, said she.

I, thereupon, took out something more than the money, and put it into her hand. And, what is this for, my child ? To ransom your two cows, my kind mother, said I. Ah, she cried, I cannot take it ; I must honestly confess that I have no means of repaying you, but by those very cows which you offer to redeem. I ask no payment, said I, I am already overpaid. You gave, awhile ago, to my necessities, the whole of the milk that you ever looked to have

have for yourself and your children ; and I have not given to you the half of my store.

Here she suddenly dropt on her knees, and, turning from me, exclaimed, Blessed be thou, O, God ! who has not left destitute the fatherless and the widow, but hast sent this thy angel to them in the hour of their extremity ! Blessed be thy name ! and, O bless, a thousand fold, this the gracious instrument of thy wonderful bounty !

She then started up, and running out wildly, returned, awhile after, with her three orphans about her, two boys and a girl. Come my children, she cried, and kneel with me, in thanksgiving to our dear deliverer here, the young father of us all, the image and counterpart of the father of all mercies !

I was so abashed and oppressed by this sudden expression of idolizing gratitude, that I could answer no otherwise than by a gush of tears, which served to sooth, for the time, the inward anguish of my own spirit ; and I secretly rejoiced and blessed my God, that, in rendering

me the most miserable of all the children of men, he had not yet steeled my heart to the sense of compassion for others.

Perceiving that I was not hotly pursued by my guard, I ventured out, on the fall of evening, into a field behind the house. All the elements were calm and still as the grave. I looked about, but could perceive no living object, no person whose attention might be attracted or disturbed by my wailings. I then moved farther aloof from the ears of the village, and gave a free scope and vent to the burst of my afflictions.

I struck my breast, and wrung my hands, and clapped them together. You are gone then, I cried, you are gone, my beloved ! gone, but not to come again ! gone, but never to return ! gone, gone for ever ! Why didst thou come from thy chamber, as from the east, in a morning, rising upon my sight in the light of thy beauty ? The day comes, and the night comes, and they bring gladness or repose to whom they may concern ; but my day, my day is done, and my night shall have no ending.

O,

O, thou bower of my blessedness, the grave-diggers have come upon thee, and ensconced thee in on every side, and they have piled the marbles about thee; and I call, but thou wilt not answer, and my hands are wearied and rent in striving to reach at thee, but no part, no relief of thee is to be attained for consolation.

Why, O, world! was thou once so pleasant? when mine eye beheld with delight the glories of thy firmament, the bloom of thy flowers, and the verdure of thy fields; when mine ear turned with joy to the warble of the woodland songsters, and to the voices of men; it was the presence of my love that caused thee to smile; but now, O, world! she has left thee empty, and thou art become a desolation!

All, yet, is not lost; the idea of her loveliness is still left, and stands ever before me; but then she stands not as when she was the chearer of hearts! The lily of the vale, and not the rose of Sharon, is on her cold cheek; and she looks with a tearful eye of pity upon me.

Hasten.

Haften thy courfe, O fun ! away with thine odious gawds, and let the night defcend in welcome gloom upon my fpirit, that no objects may obtrude themfelves upon my loathing fenfes, but leave my foul to be wholly occupied by its only concern. Then, defcend, thou fair fhade, into the dreams of thy beloved ! for thy fhade is the only fubftance that he defires throughout exiftence. O, deceive me, deceive me into a vifionary bleffednefs ! let rapturous imagination once more behold thee, hear thee, touch thee, fold thee in for ever ! fo fhall the illufions of night compenfate for grievous realities, when the day fhall awaken me to recollection and wretchednefs.

Thus, day after day, and night after night, and year after year, I dwelt on the image and contemplation of my beloved ; and my foul turned away from every other impreffion. My grief became my inſeperable, my only companion ; I fupplied it with conftant food, and fed conftantly upon it. I held up to my fancy the images and remembrances of all former delights, all the little endearing circumftances, every minutenefs that regarded the object of my paſſion ; how ſhe looked,

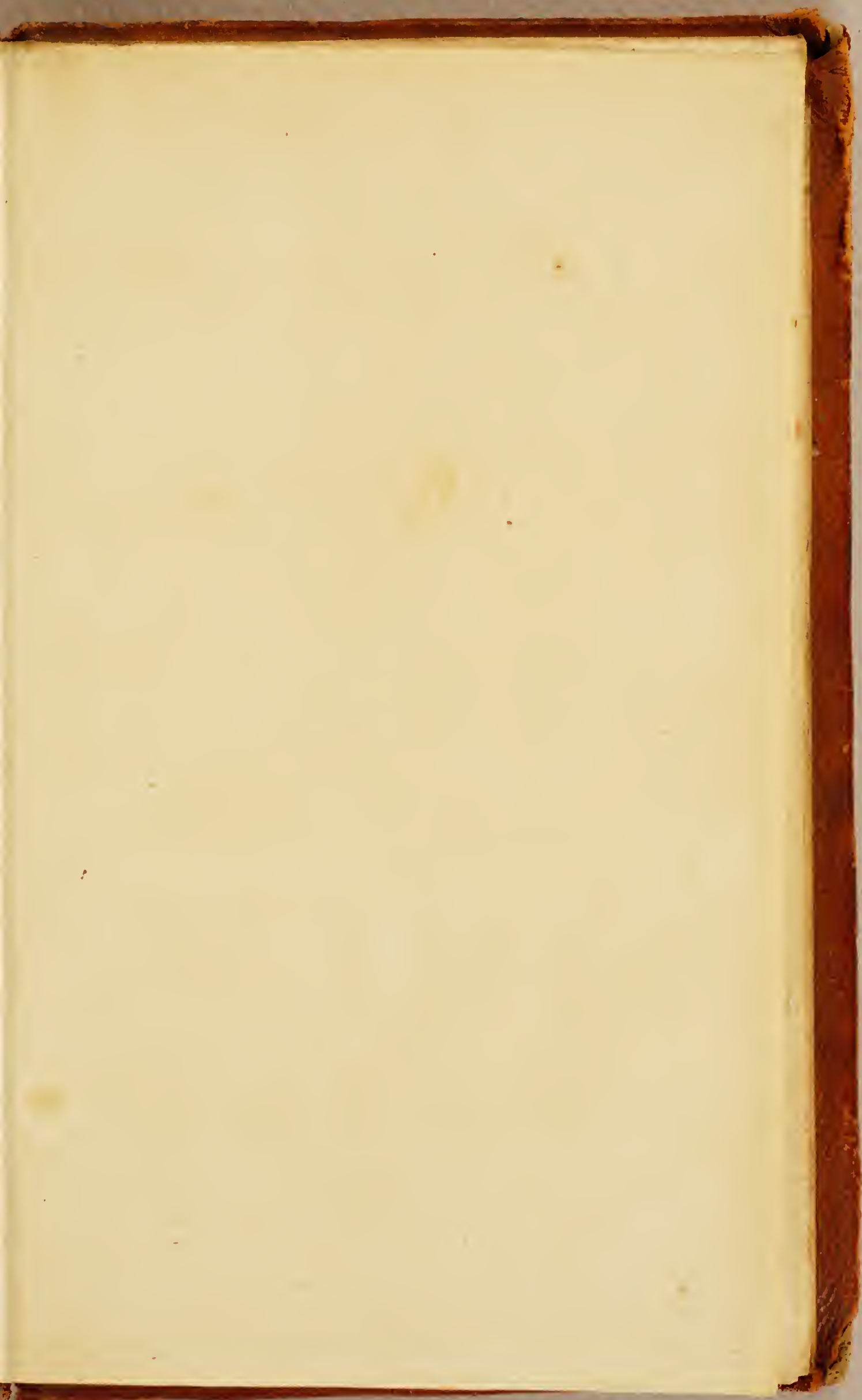
ed, or moved, or smiled, or toyed ineffably joyous : nay, the recollection became more affecting to my imagination, than even the reality had formerly been ; my grief became the more delightful, the more it deepened my distress ; I grew enamoured of it, and would not have exchanged it for the happiest lot that ever mortal enjoyed.

But, madam, your looks are languid. Indeed, we have, both, been too much agitated. I shall, with your leave, defer the remainder of my narrative till some other season.

I rose and retired, silent, dejected, and softened beyond expression. There was something so affecting in the description of this young man's feelings, so sympathetic and congenial to my own soul, as attached me to him with a kind of involuntary relation that I did not find I bore to any other person.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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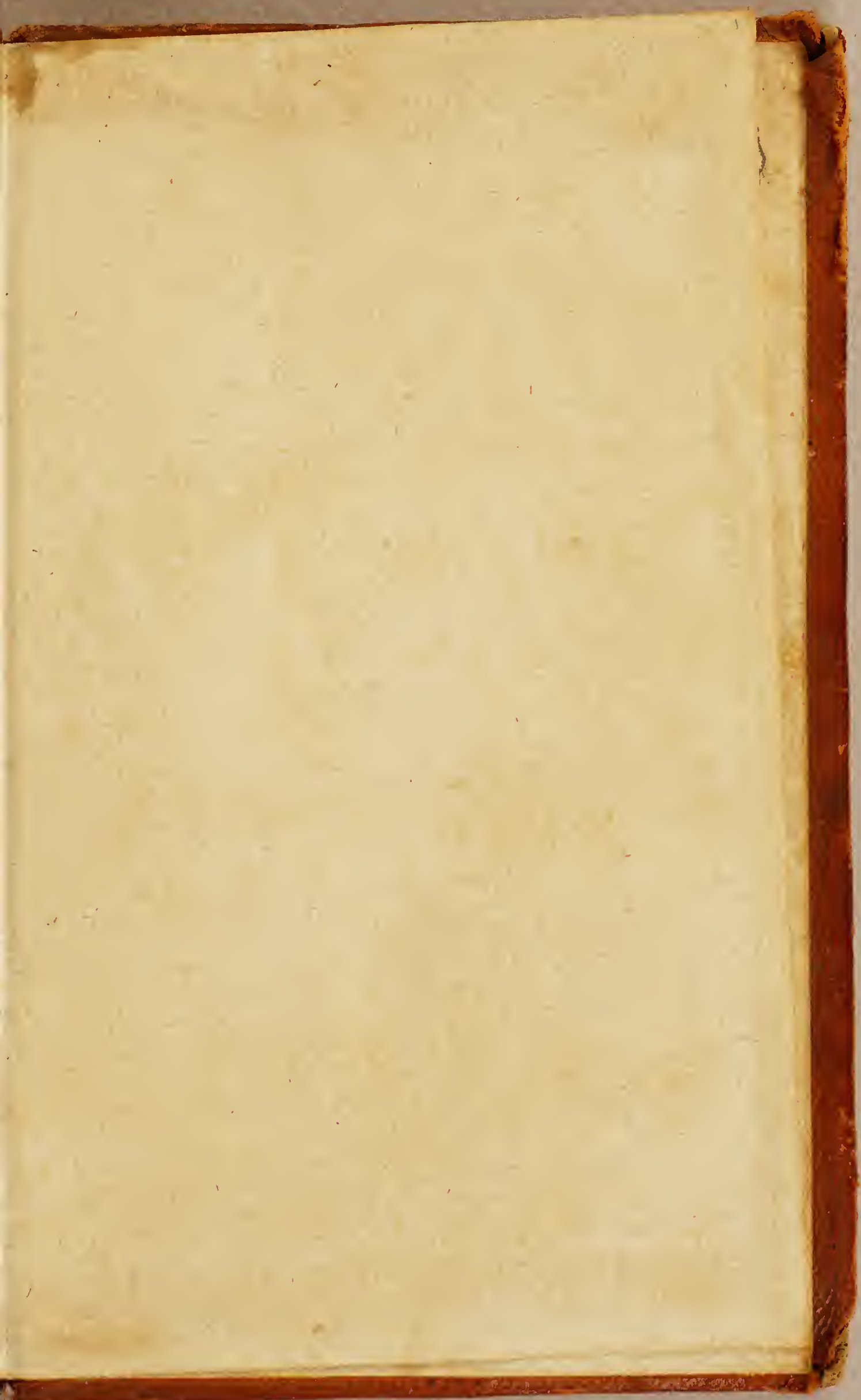


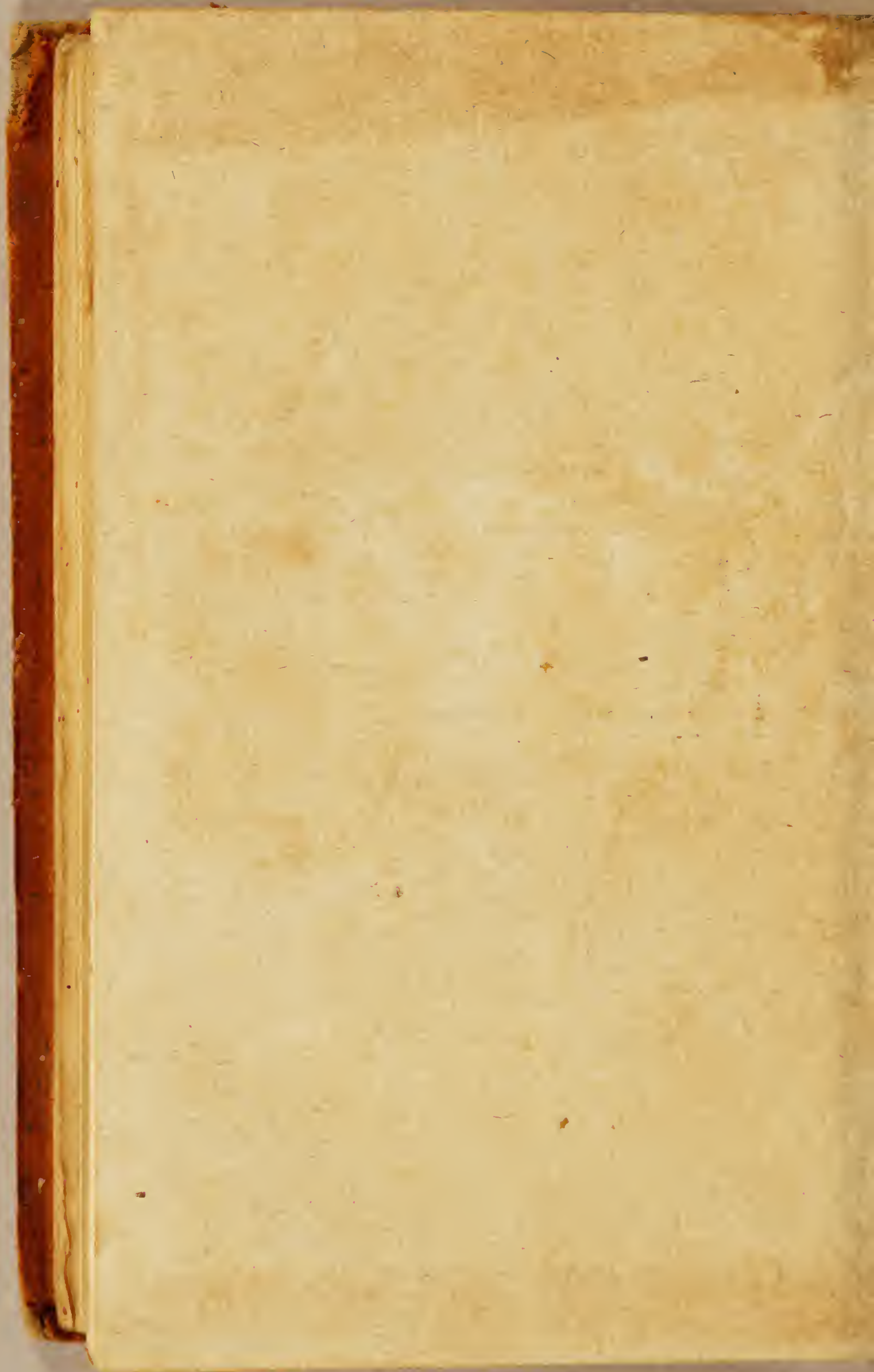
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* A GIFT OF *
* MARY W PORTER, *
* TO *
* HARRIET A. CLARK. *
* May 21, 1809. *

